LIFESTYLE / F1
Fashion A-Z as in from Aquascutum to Zac Posen

ACROSS / A17
Jueteng fever sweeps thru Luzon; names of suspected gambling lords listed

WORLD / A24
Deadliest day in Lebanon: 72 killed, 20 tons of bombs dropped

NEWS / A2
Supreme Court rules no annulment for Amy Perez

'Queer Eye' says GMA, Imelda need no makeover

By Nikko Dizon and Joyce C. Alvarie

AND NO, SHE DOESN'T NEED A MAKEOVER.

The cast of the Emmy award-winning "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" came, saw—and retired many beautiful things and people in the Philippines, including President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"She's beautiful, isn't she?" said Ryan Douglas.

QUEER EYE A-15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 21, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 222 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Tip to teens high on MP3 players: Use 60-60 rule

LONDON—TEENAGERS and young adults who listen too loudly and too often to MP3 players risk going deaf 30 years earlier than their parents' generation, a charity warned on Thursday.

Deafness Research UK

TIP, A3

It's the usual suspect

San Juan says Gringo behind Feb. 24 plot

By Luige A. del Puerto and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TO ROGUE SOLDIERS AND civilian supporters, he was known as "Kuya," "Doc" and "Bitoy."

These code names referred to ex-Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, according to an affidavit purportedly executed by 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, who last week defected from the Magdalo group of mutineers and pledged allegiance again to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The affidavit summed how Honasan reportedly presided over initiation rites for military recruits into Magdalo as well as over meetings from 2003 right up to a month before the aborted Feb. 24 coup attempt.

The 13-page document described Honasan as the acknowledged Magdalo leader who "always shared his own reasoning of idealism (and) patriotism." It also confirmed earlier reports of Magdalo's secret workings, such as the coining of the letter K to "oblisto"—the ancient Tagalog script seen on Katipunan flags—on the left inner cuffs of its members.

The Magdalo was the Katipunan-inspired by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo during

GRINGO BEHIND! A4

Affidavit excerpts: Real reform should start now

"SOMETIME 2ND QUARTER 2004, I was approached by Cpt. Alex Macatangay. He told me to meet him in Zamboanga City at JolliBee near Edwin Andrews Air Base (EAAB) as we could discuss some matters. From Isabela, Basilan City until assignment as platoon leader, LRCI. I proceeded to our meeting place and arrived at around 2-4 a.m. While we were eating, he started discussing matters pertaining to the AFP such as salary-related issues, problems on logistical support, corruption, etc. In the course of our discussion, he mentioned that these problems should be addressed radically and we the junior officers, must contribute or participate or make the necessary reforms. Afterwhich, he mentioned Gringo Honasan and solicited my opinion about him. I told him that I do not know much about him except his involvement in the series of coups. Before ending our discussion, he asked if I am willing to be part of the 'concerned group' and then he added he won't rush me for any decision. I told him that I am open to his proposal.

"The second time we met was at around 10 p.m. at Garden Orchid Hotel, Zamboanga City sometime 2003. Gringo was there together with Cpt. Macatangay, Lt. Trinidad and two more junior officers. Gringo told us the stories behind the 1986, 1987 and 1989 revolution. He said that the problems we are experiencing

AFFIDAVIT, A16

SUNDAY MASS is said in this hall at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in northern Beirut, which parish priest Agustin Advincula, the only Filipino priest in Lebanon, had turned into sleeping quarters for Filipino workers displaced by the Israeli-Hezbollah bombing.

Beirut's lone Pinoy priest: OFWs' blessing, curse

WAY TO GO: An OFW with her 3 American wards prepares to board a cruise liner bound for Cyprus on Wednesday during the first mass evacuation of Americans.

By Nikko Dizon, Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño

THE WAR IN LEBANON HAS BECOME both a curse and a blessing for many Filipino workers in that beleaguered Middle East nation, according to Fr. Agustin Advincula, the only Filipino Catholic priest in the country.

"It's a curse for those who were determined to work only to be left behind by their employers who did not even leave them any money. It's a blessing for those without (proper) papers who were facing immigration problems," Advincula told the Inquirer in an overseas phone interview last night.

Advincula said two-thirds of the Filipinos who had already left Beirut had immigration problems, while the rest had volunteered to leave and return to the Philippines.

These were the ones who had either been sent away or literally abandoned by their employers, he said.

Some 1,400 Filipino workers had registered for evacuation, Advincula said.

Of the figure, 200 had decided to stay at the St. Vincent Ladging House of the Church of the Miraculous Medal, after 192 had left for Syria yesterday.

Around 180 French nationals had also arrived to seek shelter at the center, Advincula said.

The first batch of 192 Filipinos had left Beirut by land and were expected to be in the Syrian capital of Damascus last night, Manila time.

The batch included about 70 runaways, 30 of whom were formally detained for immigration violations, and 200 others who had been turned over by their Lebanese or Western employers.

The evacuees boarded buses that left Beirut at 9 a.m. yesterday (2 p.m. in Manila), taking an easterly route. They

EXODUS, A15

16,000 cops: City a fortress for Sona

By Luige A. del Puerto

METRO MANILA IS INCREASINGLY becoming a fortified territory as the police yesterday declared that a total of 16,000 cops and soldiers—not 14,000 as earlier stated—would be deployed on Monday when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her Sona of the Nation Address at the Batasang Pambansa.

More checkpoints will be established in the next three days in areas leading to the nation's capital, police said.

"So far we (have) covered all corners. As the day gets nearer, we get more and more confident (of our preparations)," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Police earlier disclosed that a special

16,000 COPS A15

Defense debunks DNA evidence with 'what ifs'

By Volt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

THERE ARE MANY WAYS HUMAN DNA could have ended up on "Nicole's" panties or in the cord confirm her found cached there—ways that will not support her charge of rape against four US Marines.

Defense lawyers in the Subic rape trial yesterday tried to advance this premise when they grilled the chief of the DNA Analysis section of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, the agency whose findings formed part of the

DEFENSE A8

Let the country be my judge, says Bishop Tobias

By Christine V. Esguerra

"LET THE COUNTRY BE MY JUDGE."

The Catholic bishop who admitted to harboring mutinous soldiers who escaped from detention in January made the remark yesterday, refused by the prospect of being charged criminally by the government.

Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias said his act was never meant to break the laws of man and that he was leaving the judgment of his guilt or innocence to the people.

"I will not put up any defense—let the country be my judge," the diminutive 60-years old prelate said in thunderous applause at a press conference in Manila.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez earlier said the government was looking into possible criminal violations by Tobias when the bishop, in a television interview, admitted to providing sanctuary to Army 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan and six other mutinous soldiers at his official residence in Quezon City.

San Juan, Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza and Navy Lieutenants Sonny Sanantonio and Patricio Bumidang Jr. escaped from the Custodial Management Unit in Fort Bonifacio after attending a hearing at a Makati

LET THEM, A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2006

No annulment for Amy Perez, SC declares

By Armand Nocum

SAYING THAT AN UNDERSTANDING MARRIAGE is not automatically void from the beginning, the Supreme Court has junked with finality the bid of actress Amy Perez to have her marriage to singer Rex Navarro annulled for his alleged psychological incapacity.

In a resolution penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, the high court's first division said the basis cited by Perez—Ma. Armida Perez-Ferraris in real life—for the supposed psychological incapacity of her husband does not hold water.

Citing Article 36 of the Family Code, the court said the law was clear on the definition of "psychological incapacity" as a serious psychological illness or personality disorder affecting a party even before the celebration of the marriage.

"It is a malady so grave and so permanent as to deprive one of awareness of the duties and responsibilities of the matrimonial bond one is about to assume," the court said in denying Perez's motion for reconsideration.

In her petition, Perez cited Navarro's alleged mixed personality disorder, his habit of leaving the house whenever they quarreled, his violent tendencies during epileptic attacks, infidelity, abandonment and lack of support and the pernicious influence exerted upon him by the members of his family rather than with his family, among his reasons for seeking the dissolution of the marriage.

The high court said Perez's grounds were "not rooted on some debilitating psychological maladies but a mere refusal or unwillingness to assume the essential obligations of marriage."

"While petitioner's marriage with the respondent failed and appears to be without hope of reconciliation, the remedy however is not always to have it declared void ab initio on the ground of psychological incapacity. An unsatisfactory marriage, however, is not a null and void marriage," the court said.

In 2001, the Pasig regional trial court denied Perez's petition for the declaration of nullity of her marriage. It turned, among other things, that suffering from epilepsy did not amount to psychological incapacity under the Family Code.

The lower court also said Perez was not able to present evidence to show that Navarro was mentally or physically ill.

GUYITO GOES TO SCIENCE HIGH

Incumbent senior vice president for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso turns over to Philippine Science High School chief of student services division Aurora Perez a sculpture of Guyito, the Inquirer mascot. The PSHS earned the sculpture, painted by Fernando Sena, when student Lawrence Alba won the Quiz Bee last year. Tommy Gaptee, sculptures made for the Inquirer's 10th anniversary are being donated to 28 schools nationwide based on the public high school rankings in last year's Quiz Bee competition. A journalism workshop for the students featuring prominent Inquirer editors and columnists was also given. This seminar series is part of Inquirer's youth leadership program.

Hunger figures down–SWS

THE NUMBERS HAVE GONE DOWN, but still some 2.4 million households have reported experiencing hunger at least once in the past three months, according to a recently released survey of the Social Weather Stations.

The 2005 Second Quarter 2006 Social Weather Survey found that 13.8 percent of the projected 17.4 million household have reported that their households had experienced having nothing to eat at least once during the past three months.

This was down from the 16.9 percent level registered last March, but hunger has been at double-digits since the second quarter of 2004. The average hunger level since July 1998 is 10.0 percent.

Hunger levels declined in Mindanao (from 21 percent in March to 17.2 percent in June), in Metro Manila (from 16.5 percent to 15 percent) and in the rest of Luzon (from 14.7 percent to 10 percent). However, it slightly rose in Visayas, where it reached 17.7 percent, from 16 percent in March.

Moderate hunger

Severe hunger, which is defined as households who were hungry "often" or "always" in the last three months, declined from 6.3 percent in March to 5.4 percent, which translates to over 940,000 households.

Some 1.8 million households (10.1 percent) reported experiencing moderate hunger, or those who experienced it "only once" or "a few times" in the last three months. This was lower than the 12.7 percent registered in March.

On the other hand, the number of household heads defining themselves as "poor" rose to 55 percent in June, from the 53 percent recorded in March. The proportion of self-rated poor households rose in Mindanao (from 56 percent to 61 percent), the rest of Luzon (from 54 percent to 59 percent) and in Visayas (from 57 percent to 59 percent), while it declined slightly in Metro Manila (56 percent to 54 percent).

The Muslim Self-Rated Poverty Threshold, or the median monthly budget needed by self-rated poor households "to escape poverty" rose from P9,000 to P10,000 in Metro Manila, while it remained at P5,000 in the rest of Luzon and at P5,000 in Mindanao. It declined in the Visayas from P7,000 to P6,000.

The SWS survey was conducted between June 23 to 26 using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 households (300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) with error margin of plus-minus 3 for national percentages.

Self-rated poverty

Another survey from the latter four Presidential polls in the 12 Filipinos who consider themselves poor or almost 70 percent of Filipinos.

Data said this was gathered from its nationwide nationwide survey of Filipinos' economic situation and the country's political circumstances.

In response to the question, "When you look at your situation today, do you consider yourself poor?" Data reported that 69.2 percent of the 1,407 respondents answered through a multi-stage probability sampling said "yes."

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

Data said that the percentage of those who said their incomes could no longer meet their needs increased in the survey done in late June to early July—47.2 percent in the midyear survey compared to 38.8 percent in the survey done just three months earlier, in March.

Not enough income

"Low incomes and a high cost of living resulted in most Filipinos being unable to meet basic needs, according to the results of the July 2006 three-nationwide survey," said Data research director Jovanie Tajon, Jr., who presented the survey findings in a news conference.

Data said that those who said their incomes could no longer meet their needs increased by nine percentage points in the 12 Philippine provinces surveyed, while those who said their incomes were enough went down by 16.8 percent of the respondents. In the midyear survey, those who said so represented just 29.3 percent.

"Half of the problem was a lack of available work or livelihood," Tajon said.

The survey showed that 47.6 percent of respondents said that although there were jobs and livelihood opportunities in their area, these were not enough.

Thirty-eight percent of the respondents replied that there were no available jobs or livelihood opportunities. Only 14 percent said that there were available in their areas.

As a result, 66.7 percent of respondents said that, during the past three months, they couldn't buy enough food, 64 percent had trouble paying their medical bills, 63.7 percent experienced difficulty paying for their children's schooling and 62.3 percent had problems with buying medicines or paying for medical attention. Sara Pulvirenti, PDI Research and Norman Bordadora

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BUDGET IMPASSE

Palace willing to talk but won't budge on cuts

MALACAÑANG IS WILLING TO DEAL WITH the Senate on the stalled 2006 budget but it will definitely be "no deal" if the legislators insist on slashing the P8 billion in allocations to local government units (LGUs).

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said a "powerful (LGU) lobby" had joined Malacañang in seeking a solution to the budget impasse but stressed that the P5-billion Ekka Aarose and the P3-billion Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) are "untouchable."

Andaya's remarks, the country's former top economic planner was taken into custody July 7 and is being held at the US immigration and Customs Enforcement's processing center in San Pedro, JCE spokeswoman Virginia Rice said Wednesday.

She said Bolante was given notice Wednesday to appear in federal court, although a hearing date was not immediately scheduled. No charges have been filed, Rice said.

The Philippine Consulate General's office in Los Angeles did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

Bolante arrived at Los Angeles International Airport on a flight that originated in Hong Kong, and Peter Gordon, his attorney, is the point person for US Customs and Border Protection.

Although Bolante is named in an arrest warrant in the Philippines, Gordon said the US government's main concern is that Bolante appears to have arrived in the country illegally.

"His current visa had been revoked by the US Department of State," Gordon said.

The warrant issued in the Philippines cites accusations that Bolante diverted agricultural funds to the 2004 election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo. It was issued after Bolante refused to appear at a hearing of a Philippine Senate committee investigating the matter. Af-

"From what I have gathered, this deal or no deal standoff falls on three key items. The congressmen are saying they can't abandon their LGUs," Andaya said. He did not identify who comprised the LGU lobby.

Andaya remained optimistic, however, that the two chambers would reach an agreement, especially if they "[talk] their respective heads off [were] receptive to compromise."

"It's a purely legislative matter," he said, but added: "Our (administration) position is unchanged."

The administration is still hoping the 2006 budget will be enacted because it provides for higher spending limits on infrastructure and social services which government economic managers said was necessary to negate the impact of high oil prices on investment spending by the private sector. GMC. Cabacungan, Jr.

Bolante arrived in US illegally from HK – US

LOS ANGELES—A FORMER PHILIPPINES official who is the subject of an arrest warrant in his native country arrived in the United States from Hong Kong early two weeks ago without a valid visa, authorities said.

Jocelyn Bolante, the country's former top budget official who was taken into custody July 7 and is being held at the US immigration and Customs Enforcement's processing center in San Pedro, JCE spokeswoman Virginia Rice said Wednesday.

She said Bolante was given notice Wednesday to appear in federal court, although a hearing date was not immediately scheduled. No charges have been filed, Rice said.

The Philippine Consulate General's office in Los Angeles did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

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BOLANTE

Free calls to Lebanon for OFWs, relatives

THE COUNTRY'S top telecommunications troops—PLDT, Smart and Globe—have come to the rescue of distressed Filipinos in war-torn Lebanon and their relatives in the Philippines by providing them with free calls.

This was announced by Globe and Smart in separate press statements yesterday.

Relatives can now make free two-minute calls to their loved ones in Lebanon this weekend using any of the two million PLDT landlines and over 22 million Smart and Talk 'N Text mobile phone mall over the country.

This will be done under an emergency assistance program for the benefit of overseas Filipino workers hostilities launched by PLDT using PLDT Prepaid Cards and SMART Budget Cards.

At the same time, PLDT wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. has also set up "Libreng Tawag" Centers in Metro Manila, Cebu City and Davao City. The "Libreng Tawag" Centers will provide free voice and SMS services for the families and relatives of OFWs affected by the ongoing conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

Under this program, Prepaid Card and Budget Card users will be given one two-minute free call to Lebanon or Israel on tomorrow and Sunday.

Users of these call cards can utilize PLDT landlines to make more calls to Lebanon and Israel following the usual procedure prescribed for these cards. Moreover, PLDT Prepaid Card users can also make voice calls through Smart and Talk 'N Text cell phones.

Globe, too

"We are trying to do our share to help our fellow Filipinos seeking shelter. We also hope that this program will help their families go through this difficult period," said PLDT and SMART spokesperson Ramon S. Isberto.

The Smart "Libreng Tawag" Centers are located at the OMWA, carload office in Pasay City; Davao Region 7 office at the Mezzanine floor, LDM Bldg., MJ Cuenco cor. Sagisag St., Cebu City; and at the Davao Region 11 office located at Door #3, FD1 Complex, Magsaysay Park, Davao City.

Not to be outdone, Globe Telecom and Innove Communications have launched on Wednesday "Libreng Tawag," a special outreach program for Manila-based families of OFWs in Lebanon.

In cooperation with the Globe, Globe and Innove will be offering free 100 calls to relatives and friends of the OFWs.

The "Libreng Tawag" Center is located at the lobby of the Globe Center Building in 8th Harrison St. Pasay City. It will go on indefinitely until the affected OFWs are evacuated from Lebanon.

Palace hails Senga for legacy, job well done

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY GAVE HIGH praise to outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Generoso Senga for "leaving a legacy of professionalism and discipline characterized by leadership and tough decisions."

"He has done his job well," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Senga serves as AFP chief today less than a year after he was appointed to the post. He is to be replaced by Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

"General Senga leaves behind a legacy of professionalism and discipline characterized by leadership and tough decisions. He has done his job well for the unity of the command and its professional ranks, and he deserves the accolades of the people," said Bunye.

Malacañang has not indicated whether Senga would be given a civilian appointment like previous retired AFP chiefs.

But Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz has said he would recommend Senga for a government post because "such experience and talent like his should not go to waste."

Senga's short tenure, however, has been clouded by doubt about his loyalty as the President during the critical hours of Feb. 23 when Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the dismissed commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, went to see him and invited him to join a group of officers in marching to Edsa the next day and declaring a withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The sources reported, quoting unnamed sources in the coup plotters' group, that Senga told Lim to report the matter to Cruz, who is the Chief of Staff's own boss, instead of coming to the Commander in Chief.

Senga has vehemently denied this, explaining that he had immediately called all his senior commanders to a meeting and it took them that long to get to Camp Aguinaldo.

When she appointed Senga to the post last August, the President had high hopes for Senga as a "role model" of loyalty to the chain of command to young officers especially "at a time like this when there are so many attempts to drive a wedge within the senior officers and the young officers."

In her speech at the time, the President said it was "important for the leadership of the AFP, especially under someone who has personified the behavior of an officer and a gentleman under extremely difficult circumstances to himself and his career like General Senga, to define for the entire organization the correct path to be honored."

7 MONTHS OF DEFERRED COST

Napocor hikes Luzon grid rates

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER RATES FOR THE LUZON GRID of the state-owned National Power Corp. will increase by 37.07 centavos per kilowatt hour following the approval by the Energy Regulatory Commission of Napocor's application to recover seven months' worth of deferred generation, fuel and foreign exchange costs.

The ERC recently issued an order allowing Napocor to recover 1.18 centavos per kWh under the generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram) and 26.87 centavos per kWh under the incremental currency exchange rate adjustment (Icera).

The quarterly Gram allows Napocor to recover cost fluctuations in the power it buys from independent power producers as well as fuel costs.

The Icera is a quarterly rate adjustment mechanism that allows Napocor to pass on foreign exchange fluctuations to consumers.

The approved increases represent the sixth Gram and fifth Icera filings of Napocor, covering the period April 26, 2005 to Oct. 25, 2005.

The ERC said the new Luzon Gram will be recovered from customers over a nine-month period.

The Icera is divided into two components to be recovered over different periods. The debt service and operating expense component will be charged to customers over a period of eight months, while the capacity and infrastructure fee component will be recovered over 24 months.

The ERC explained that because of the long recovery periods, Napocor's deferred accounting adjustments (DAA) actually overlapped.

This means that the ERC-approved DAA under Napocor's fifth Gram and fourth Icera will still have to be recovered from customers, in addition to the newly approved recovery charges under the sixth Gram and the fifth Icera.

The recently approved rate increases will not bring any additional revenues to the state firm.

But despite being revenue-neutral, Napocor's Gram and Icera recoveries have to be approved by the ERC, unlike in the case of distribution utilities like the Manila Electric Co. which are allowed to automatically impose generation rate adjustment (Gra) mechanisms.

Napocor will get a similar automatic recovery system once the ERC approves its incremental generation cost adjustment (Igca) mechanism.

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First Gen not interested in Masinloc plant

FIRST GEN, THE LOPEZ-LED CORPORATE of the Lopez group of power-generating assets, has "absolutely no interest" in bidding for the coal-powered Masinloc power plant, its vice chair and chief executive officer Peter Garrucho said.

Garrucho made the announcement in response to remarks made by Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri that the ousted investors of Piatt, Gen and Masinloc in the power plant caused the failure of the Masinloc privatization.

In a press statement, Garrucho said (First Gen), more than any other party...[was] so instrumental—had participated actively and in good faith in the privatization process of the government's power generating assets and had invested millions in preparing for bids and conducting due diligence in the interest of participating in the bidding conducted by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Recognition of role

Instead of being validated, First Gen "should be credited for our role in helping PSALM's bid processes succeed," Garrucho said.

Since it was for the First Gen's participation, the entire bid would have been a failure, he said. The $14 million collected from the winning bidder of Masinloc represents the largest proceeds collected by government from all its power privatization efforts in three years and this would not have been possible without the legitimizing bid of First Gen, Garrucho said.

Garrucho explained that First Gen bid below the reserve or minimum price of government and therefore it does not stand to gain from the failed bidding of Masinloc. Because of that, First Gen was not automatically in line to win the Masinloc plant at its bid price.

He added that First Gen believes that its bid price could allow it to offer more competitive power to the end consumers. First Gen's bid price reflected the market risks associated with a merchant or non-contracted power plant.

Garrucho said the way forward for the industry is to uphold and implement the EPIRA law that stipulates that utilities enter into Transition Supply Contracts (TSC) with SPC prior to being bid out. In line under Epira, these supply contracts were meant to underpin the privatization of P560,000 assets in order to minimize stranded liabilities and maximize privatization proceeds.

Creating balance

Implementing the Epira law in line with its original intent would result in a vital balance being struck between maximizing the proceeds of privatization and minimizing power costs to the end consumers in fact, First Gen funded the sifts of P3.61 per kilowatt-hour made by Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla in December as the virtue of the TSC organizations since this would have resulted in the cheapest electricity rate to the end consumer.

To dispel any notion that First Gen remained an interested party in Masinloc, First Gen declared that it had absolutely no interest. "Now or in the future," to take part in the privatization of the Masinloc power plant.

Noli pads lead over Loren in Cebu recount

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO'S WINNING margin over rival Loren Legarda in the 2004 vice presidential election has increased to 2,208 votes based on the tabulation of the revision request of the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), according to De Castro's lawyer Romulo Macalintal.

Macalintal said that President Macapagal-Arroyo was happy when he informed her of this development in Legarda's election protest.

Macalintal explained that the confusion reached for the vice presidential election could be the cause for the presidential election as the same ballots and recount were used for the presidential and vice presidential vote count.

"There being no significant findings that would materially change the results of the election in the vice presidential position and there being no findings of the massive fraud always alleged by the opposition to have been committed in Cebu to favor President Arroyo, the result in the Legarda protest is a resounding demonstration that the President's more than one million vote-lead in Cebu alone had been affirmed and confirmed," he said.

De Castro's election lawyer also pointed out that the ballots objected to and claimed by both parties were not even considered in this tabulation.

"If Legarda fails to prove massive fraud or any material recovery from this province, the PET may dismiss her protest. However, if she proves her claim of more than 300,000 recovery from Cebu, then the PET may continue the revision of ballots from other provinces," Macalintal said.

Lawyer's opinion

But he said he was very confident that "based on the conditions of the ballots from Cebu and the fact that the physical count tallied with the corresponding election returns," there would be no way for Legarda to recover any votes from Cebu, which would ultimately result in her dismissal of her protest.

Legarda's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, however, dismissed Macalintal's claim as his own conclusions.

"Whatever our lawyers says is his own opinion. Ultimately it will be the PET that will have [the] final opinion on this," Brillantes said.

"We're quite sure that we'll be able to easily present manufactured ballots and returns in substantial numbers and recount some 300,000 votes in Cebu alone and 40,000 votes gain-entered in four towns in Lanao del Sur up to the extent of overcoming their ballots," he said.

He said he had already objected to 90 percent of the ballots sent to Cebu province and agreed to only 10 percent.

Macalintal said that De Castro's additional lead came about as a result of the physical recount of ballots from 38 municipalities in Cebu conducted by the revisers of both camps.

100% recount

The Cebu recount was 100 percent complete, covering 1.5 million ballots, he said.

Macalintal said that De Castro's lead over Legarda before the PET even intervened from 68,000 votes based on the Cebu provincial certificate of canvass (CoC) used in the Congress tabulation, to 690,396 votes in the physical recount before the PET.

In the Congress overall tally, De Castro garnered 866,953 votes over Legarda's 198,373 votes. But in the PET recount, De Castro increased his votes to 890,074 against Legarda's 199,308.

Macalintal said that De Castro gained 3,164 votes in the PET recount while Legarda earned 926 votes, or a net increase to margin of 2,238 votes in favor of De Castro.

"This report is unanimous by the opposition of alleged massive fraud in Cebu where President Arroyo led by more than one million votes over her rivals in the 2004 polls," he said.

The PET has given the lawyers of both camps until Monday to submit their proposed memorandum on how to synthesize and examine the ballots, and the possibility of appointing a hearing officer outside of the PET.

Macalintal acknowledged that the physical examination of the ballots could take six months to complete, particularly if Legarda's camp would insist on examining each ballot.

Deliberation until the examination could begin is three months.

Correction

IN THE JULY 20 ISSUE, a front-page story—"SP plans: House allies Filipinos to hitch ride"—misspelled the surname of an undersecretary of foreign affairs. The correct spelling of the name of the foreign undersecretary for migrant workers' affairs is Jarabe. Corrigan—not Corrigan.—Ed.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors to Inquirer Letters, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, PCI Building, Ortigas Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, fax: 897-47-54, e-mail address: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

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PRC files raps vs 2 nursing board members

By Alcuin Papa

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC) said yesterday it had filed administrative charges against two members of the Board of Nursing who scrutinized questions in the nursing board exams on the suspicion that these were leaked to some examinees.

PRC Chair Leonor Rosero also told the Inquirer yesterday that the 17,000 nursing graduates who passed the board exams given in June could still lose their licenses later if it were found that their had been a "leakage" of exam questions.

"The more than 17,000 nurses who passed the recent board exam may take their oath on Aug. 22. But if the National Bureau of Investigation finds evidence of a leakage on the examinees' part, their [nursing graduate] licenses could still be revoked or suspended," Rosero said.

Rosero yesterday confirmed administrative charges had been filed against Board of Nursing members Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Medrija "for neglect of duty that gave rise to the leakage of test questions."

If found guilty, Rosero said the two would lose their registration certificates and professional licenses.

Presidential appointees

Both were told to go on leave until the investigation was completed. The PRC does not have the authority to suspend or remove them from office since the two are presidential appointees, but the sanctions they contributed to the PRC's Test Question Data Bank for nursing were deleted.

The PRC has also asked the NBI and the Department of Justice to investigate the matter and determine the criminal liabilities of any party.

The filing of administrative charges against Dionisio and Medrija was based on the report of an independent fact-finding committee formed by Rosero on June 28.

"The committee did not establish how it leakage's got to the examinees. That is why we gave it to the NBI. We would like to clarify that the leakage did not come from the PRC but outside it. It was beyond our control," Rosero said.

The PRC excluded about 20 questions (prepared by Medrija for Test III (Nursing Practice II)) from the computation of the results. It also nullified the results of Test I (Nursing Practice I) after some examinees "may have benefited from the handwritten notes leaked from the test questions" prepared by Dionisio.

Rosero said the PRC decided not to nullify the entire exam—given on June 11 and 12—because the questions from Medrija and Dionisio that were allegedly leaked did not affect the overall result of the exam. She said the integrity of the exam was intact.

Each of the five Boards of Nursing examiners is assigned to submit 100 questions for a particular area of the exam. Of the 500 questions submitted, 100 are randomly picked to constitute the exam. The questions are then stored in a data bank for possible use in future exams.

"In the case of Test II, the remaining 393 questions were good enough to measure the students' knowledge of the subject. In the case of Test V, the result would not have affected the grades of the examinees," Rosero said.

No advantage

She said the PRC hired a statistician who came up with a formula that led the agency to decide to declare the nullification of the exam.

"There was a formula that was given to the computation of the results that would make invalid the effect of any leakage. We also found that if you had access to the leakage, it would not have favored you. The statistics and our methods will bear it out," Rosero said.

She said she was able to question Dionisio and Medrija about the alleged leakage recently but both disavowed any knowledge of it. The NBI has refused to furnish the Inquirer contact numbers for the two.

Allegations of cheating surfaced in Baguio City after nursing graduates there complained of a leakage that allegedly emanated from the R. S. Gagan Review Center in the city.

The review center has denied any involvement in the leakage. Roy Gagan, company founder and chair, admitted, however, that he had received a faxed copy of an 18-page handwritten manuscript a day before the exam. The manuscript supposedly contained topics that came out in the board exams.

Home Guaranty Corporation

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for sale:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
	FOR NEGOTIATED SALE					
	BAGUIO/BENGUET/LA UNION					
1	68 Lot 1 Phase 1 Park Homes Subd., Tuding, Itogon, Benguet	Townhouse	28.80	96	975,000.00	
2	2B/F1, 44 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
3	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
4	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
5	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
6	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
	LAGUNA					
7	68 Lot 1 Phase 1 Park Homes Subd., Tuding, Itogon, Benguet	Townhouse	28.80	96	975,000.00	
8	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
9	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
10	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
11	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
12	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	
	VILLA SOLEDAD/LA TERRAZERA, BRGY. SAN VICENTE, SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA					
13	Blk. 1 Lot 30	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	occupied
14	Blk. 1 Lot 31	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	vacant
15	Blk. 1 Lot 32	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	vacant
16	Blk. 2 Lot 62	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	occupied
17	Blk. 2 Lot 63	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	occupied
18	Blk. 2 Lot 64	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	vacant
19	Blk. 2 Lot 65	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	occupied
20	Blk. 2 Lot 66	Townhouse	28.80	80.00	764,127.00	occupied
	NCR					
21	No. 15 Cavalier St. cor. Pegasus, Cubao-Quezon Metro Manila	Single Detached	84.00	300	3,000,000.00	with illegal occupant
22	No. 19 Cavalier Street, Tribo Village, Cubao-Quezon City	Single Attached	110.0	300	3,000,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
23	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
24	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	w/ illegal occupant
	RIZAL					
25	2B/F1 & 2C/F2 Mahogany Road, Brgy. Irisan, Baguio City	Townhouse	30.24	96	975,000.00	with illegal occupant
	SORSOGON					
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	MARIKINA CITY					
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Atty. RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
Vice President

Groups seek injunction vs Lafayette

SEEKING TO STOP MINING ACTIVITY in the town of Rapu-Rapu, Albay, environment groups, concerned citizens and television personalities joined the island's resistance yesterday and sought an injunction case against mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. (LPI) and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Members of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, fisherfolk group Samahang, personalities Chin-Chin Gutierrez and Miriam Quiambao and residents of Rapu-Rapu filed the civil suit yesterday morning at the Makati Regional Trial Court to seek the halt of the 50-day test run of Lafayette's polymetallic project.

"We learned that recently that there was a new spill besides the two spills last year. So what we are saying is the permit for another test run should have not either anymore because it means that their promises could not be fulfilled," said lawyer Howard Calleja.

"Now they promised to be safe, but there's a third attempt, so what are we waiting for? Are we waiting for a disaster to happen?" Calleja continued, referring to a reported spillage at the onset of the test run last week.

No issue

Signed by 600 individuals, the petition asked for the immediate issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop the mining activities arising from the test run while the court has yet to decide on whether or not it will issue a permanent injunction.

"... We seek to enjoin respondents from further mining in the Rapu Rapu area in view of the grave injustice and irreparable damage caused by mining activities and all those that may still be caused by them as a result of ongoing operations," the petition read.

The test run, granted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), sought to check whether the remedies the firm implemented to ensure the safety of its operations would be effective.

LPI operations were suspended in November last year after two tailings leaked toxic waste into creeks in the island last October.

LPI was slapped with a P18.7-million fine for the spill, blamed for widespread fishkill in the area.

"Former generations, residents and non-residents of Rapu-Rapu alike, are dearly entitled to enjoy the natural resources present in the fragile island ecosystem of Rapu-Rapu. To deprive them of such... will only be a clear and blatant violation of the present generation's role as stewards of the country's natural resources," the petition read.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 21, 2006
15th Week in Ordinary Time
Lawrence of Brindisi

1st Reading:	Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
Gospel:	Matthew 12:1-8

It happened that Jesus walked through the wheat fields on a Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and began to pick some heads of wheat and could thus in eat the grain. When the Pharisees noticed this, they said to Jesus, "Look at your disciples! They are doing what is prohibited on the Sabbath!"

Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his men were hungry? He went into the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, although neither he nor his men had the right to eat it, but only the priests. And have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the Temple break the Sabbath rule, yet they are not guilty?

I tell you, there is a greater than the Temple here. If you really knew the meaning of the words: 'It is mercy I want, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.

Besides the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Commentary

Hezekiah is dying and prays fervently, but not a sou is him until words of healing—adding 15 years to his life, promising to rescue the city from hostile, and so be the shield of Israel. How's that to give to the Lord? Hezekiah "the right to have been given to God" to honors flesh in the person of Jesus who walks the earth and worships God whole-heartedly. He reinterprets scriptures and history to proclaim his and the freedom of the children of God and our equal. "But God only wants mercy not sacrifice. This is the word and power of the Son of Man, Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. Do we hear and take these words and desire to heart to our lives?

Gospel Publications, Publication, CP 10 Hillman Quezon City, CP P.O. Box 4, Diliman 1101 Quezon City, tel. 921-3000, fax 921-7600 e-mail: info@cbcp.org, Website: http://www.

Ombudsman insists it can probe Comelec execs

By Nelson P. Flores

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY rejected the claim of the Commission on Elections that it had no authority to investigate impeachable officials.

In an 11-page order, the Office of the Ombudsman, through its panel investigating the nullified P1.3-billion Mega Pacific electronics computerization deal, cited the Ombudsman Act of 1989 which states: "The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the power to investigate any serious misconduct in office allegedly committed by officials removable by impeachment, for the purpose of filing a verified complaint for impeachment, if warranted."

For this part, Graduate Dean Bernardo Abalos told Inquirer.net in a text message, "I must inform, however, that I am ready to defend myself in an appropriate investigation," he said in a statement.

Abalos said he wanted to uphold the duties of the Comelec as a constitutional body whose members could only be removed by impeachment and, therefore, only investigated by the Supreme Court.

"I view it to my office to assert the lack of jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to prevent the erosion of the dignity of the Comelec as a constitutional body," he said.

Abalos and Election Commissioners Florentino Tuason Jr. and Resurreccion Borra had earlier questioned the Ombudsman's authority to investigate impeachable officials.

On June 30, the Ombudsman issued a resolution recommending the filing of an impeachment complaint against Borra who was project head for Phase II of the poll automation deal.

The Ombudsman's panel stated in its latest order that the term "serious misconduct" meant all grounds for impeachment enumerated in the Constitution and not just administrative offenses or serious misconduct as defined in the Civil Service Law.

It also clarified that the Ombudsman did not need a formal charge to investigate alleged misconduct committed in government because of its exclusive powers to file its own criminal cases.

The order stated that "the hearings being conducted by the Ombudsman investigating panel should forthwith proceed."

Federico Aldaba, lawyer for Abalos and Tuason, said he had yet to receive a copy of the Ombudsman's order.

"Although I still have to talk to my clients, we still by round-footing with the panel. If subpoenaed, they (Abalos and Tuason) will appear at the next hearing," Aldaba said.

At yesterday's hearing, meanwhile, the panel invited resource persons from the Department of Science and Technology to explain the procedures used to evaluate the automated counting machines submitted for testing by Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. and Total Technology Solutions Management (TSM), the two bidders in quality.

Science and Technology Secretary Celia Alabastro said Mega Pacific's machine passed in 23 of 27 key testing areas while that of TSM passed in 16 but failed in 11 areas. She stressed that the DOST only conducted evaluation to determine but did not make any recommendation to the Comelec.

For his part, Alfredo Lazaro, lawyer for Mega Pacific, expressed confidence the Ombudsman will decide for them.

With Jerome Aning

Construction magnate denies Señeres claims

By Marjorie C. Ortiz

THE SON OF A CONSTRUCTION magnate yesterday denied claims by former Ambassador Roy Señeres that he was among a group of businessmen who allegedly encouraged the military's withdrawal of support from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24.

"I have never withdrawn support from the present government nor do I intend to do so," Wilfredo Cruz, Jr. said in his affidavit, which his lawyer Alfredo Benas-Ui delivered to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Cruz, who's himself a construction magnate, denied Señeres's allegation that he and Jorge Dolot had called the former ambassador on June 25, 2005 and invited him to his house to watch the "Fox news" speech of Mr. Arroyo.

"Had Mr. Señeres first checked his facts, he would have realized that we could not have watched the speech of the President on June 25 because she appeared on television on June 27," Cruz said in his affidavit submitted to NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda.

A glass of cognac

Cruz also said that he and Dolot did not exchange a glass of cognac with Señeres because it was the first time they met him.

"How could they share a glass of cognac when they were not even close friends? Serving Mr. Señeres alcohol unknowingly (like a glass of cognac) have been considered illegal," Cruz's counsel Benas said in response to an interview.

Cruz reasoned in his affidavit that Señeres "never seemed" to be Dominador Aguinaldo's former wife's good friend, Ed Morales, while he was holding a business meeting with Dolot.

Morales, in a separate affidavit which was also submitted by Benas yesterday, explained that Señeres had called and excitedly informed him that he was able to obtain a copy of the original version of the "Hello Garci" conversation.

Morales added that he brought Señeres to Cruz's house after the former ambassador agreed to play the cellular phone recording for them.

Curiosity

"Out of common decency and probity because our curiosity was piqued at the then current talk of the town, we watched through a garbled version of the 'Hello Garci' conversation for about 30 minutes," Cruz said.

The businessman added, "It turned out that Mr. Señeres was nothing a big fuss over what we already knew and have been played over the radio and television sometime beforehand."

Benas said they could not file libel charges against Señeres because his accusations only came out in the newspapers and were not included in the affidavit.

Perjury?

"Mr. Señeres's could always say he was misquoted by the press," Benas explained.

"It is now up to the government to file perjury charges against him if they find out that he had lied in his sworn statement," the lawyer added.

Defense tries to debunk DNA evidence with 'what ifs'

From page A1

prosecution evidence.

As the prosecution's 21st witness, Chief Insp. Francisco Supe previously told the court that the jurados Nicole were on the night of her alleged rape had pointed both Dennis and male DNA profiles and the resultant's involve a female DNA profile.

Supe also reasoned during direct examination that the female DNA found in the condom and on the panties "matched" Nicole's DNA, which was earlier obtained from a blood sample she had given for comparison.

In cross-examining Supe, the defense lawyers posed many "what if" and made the forensic analyst agree with the different scenarios wherein a male and a female could swap DNA materials on their skin or clothing.

They also made him concede that DNA findings could also be considered unreliable because of the "contamination" of the examined items.

Amused judge, gallery

Some of the scenarios—such as one offered by Benjamin Fernando—caused his colleague Daniel Smith—visibly amused both Makati Judge Benjamin Mendoza and the gallery.

Fernando asked Supe if it was possible for a dancing couple to swap DNA samples through their sweat, and for the resultant mixture to trickle down to the woman's panties. (The lawyer was alluding to Nicole's earlier testimony that she and Smith danced at the crowded Neptune Club in Subic prior to the alleged rape.)

Said Supe: "It's possible."

Again referring to Nicole's previous testimony, the lawyer asked: If she were also kissed the girl, can he transmit his DNA sample through his saliva?

"Maybe," Supe said, adding that it was only possible "if he was shaving the panty."

Some members of the gallery broke into laughter when Supe, in one instance, "mumbled" in understanding. Perhaps, said: "I can't relate to the question. If there's consensual sex, there wouldn't be any panty."

Fernando had actually asked him: if it was possible for a man to leave his DNA on the woman's underwear during consensual sex.

But before Supe could reply, public prosecutor Hazel Velez objected to the word "consensual," saying the witness could give his expert opinions only on matters backed by evidence.

2) ST WITNESS. Chief Insp. Francisco Supe returns to court to testify. Clearing is a composite of the major characters in the Subic rape case, Nicole (long hair with dark glasses) and the four accused. Photo above

'If hands were sweaty'

Defense lawyer Estelo Ugbaya (counsel for Lance Cpl. Dominic Daquioag) introduced another hypothesis: What if a female woman herself who put the condom on her own panties? Could this explain why her DNA was found on the condom?

"If her hands were sweaty, it could [explain that]. But remember that the [first witness] Nicole [the examinee]," Supe replied.

Francisco Rodrigo (counsel for S/Sgt. Chad Cesperedes) chose to use doubt on the PNP's DNA testing process itself.

He first reminded Supe of previous testimony saying that the condom, for instance, remained "on the desk" of the evidence custodian of the Subic Freeport's Intelligence and Investigation Division (SIID) from Nov. 23 to 27, 2005.

The lawyer also recalled that the condom, after being retrieved, was swapped in brand paper, briefly kept inside a pocket, and was unsealed out for initial inspection by an SIID officer using a helper.

Rodrigo: "In fact proper?"

Supe: "In fairly speaking, that is not the proper way of handling it, sir."

Rodrigo further expressed fears, in one point, that panties, the paper-wrapped condom, and Nicole's denim jeans were all put together in a brown paper bag by SIID handlers.

"It's possible," Supe said when Rodrigo asked if the items in the bag could have "contaminated each other."

But apparently in defense of the PNP findings, Supe maintained early on in the cross-examination that "there was no contamination" in Nicole's case.

Other times, he said, the jury would have produced "mixed profiles" of DNA.

PCR machine

During the cross-examination of forensic analyst Senior Insp. Edmar de la Torre, Rodrigo asked whether the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine, a "photocopier" of DNA extracted from a specimen, would also multiply the amount of contaminants in the specimen.

"Will you agree with me that the PCR has a sample size and degradation limitations [so that] if a sample was compromised, it would also affect the PCR?" the defense asked De la Torre, who conducted DNA testing on the biological fluid found in Nicole's panties and the condom purportedly used by Smith.

"If the sample is contaminated, the contaminants do not increase, only human DNA, because our scientific process is geared to with [targeting] DNA," he said.

De la Torre was called to the stand to corroborate the testimony of Supe, his superior at the PNP Crime Laboratory.

Like Supe, he testified that Smith's DNA was found on her panties and in the condom, and that male DNA was found on several spots in the panties, but not in the condom.

Samples taken from both pieces of evidence were replicated for analysis in the PCR machine.

'Will you agree?'

"Will you agree when I say it is possible matter in contaminants a PCR [machine] that is not clean, a common cold?" Rodrigo said.

"Yes," De la Torre said.

Rodrigo: "Will you agree with me that contamination will influence PCR results in the presence of improper handling?

De la Torre: "Yes."

The lawyer got the same reply when he asked whether the PCR machine would be affected by the presence of semen.

During the court's inquiry based in the hearing, De la Torre said contamination of specimen prior to DNA testing could not be detected during PCR testing and would not affect analysis.

Rodrigo then was grounded to question the use of DNA in criminal investigation. "Have you come across a case of mistaken DNA exam that resulted in the conviction of an innocent man?"

De la Torre said he had not.

"Will you agree that DNA matches are not the end of the inquiry but rather the beginning of more investigative hard work?" the lawyer said.

De la Torre replied in the affirmative.

Rodrigo: "Will you agree with me that subsequent DNA raping [of a contaminated sample] could establish the presence of a defendant in a crime scene when in fact he was not?"

De la Torre: "Yes, that is possible."

Contamination-proof

Rodrigo took the witness back to the time 80 investigators retrieved and kept the evidence, including Nicole's panties and jeans and the condom found at Subic's Mara Pier, where the complainant was allegedly dumped by the accused.

"Suppose evidence 1 has no DNA and item 2 has DNA. If item 2 came in close proximity or in contact with item 1, isn't it true that item 2 will then have DNA profile [from item 1]?" the lawyer said.

"If that's before it reaches the lab, that can happen," De la Torre said, adding that the entire DNA Analysis Section of the PNP Crime Laboratory was sterilized and therefore contamination-proof.

Rodrigo: "If [Nicole's] blue denims and panties were in the same bag, sure that cause contamination of evidence?"

De la Torre: "That is possible."

Rodrigo: "Will caution/tend be a good caution for a used condom? If it was then placed in a drawer, will that not cause contamination?"

De la Torre: "In my always say in our lexicon, our principle is always to use paper. As long as the case who collected [the condom] had basic protection like gloves, paper will be good. ... As long as the [drawer] is dry and soap [unintelligible], that's okay."

Judge Dione canceled today's hearing after being informed that the prosecution's next witness, a toxicologist, would be unable to make it.

Blood samples from accused

He also tentatively scheduled blood extraction from Smith, Daquioag, Cespedes and Lance Cpl. Keith Gilbreath to open court on Monday, to response to the prosecution's motion to compel the four accused musicians to provide their blood samples for DNA testing.

The defense lawyers filed their opposition to the motion yesterday.

Pemen is expected to rule on the matters before Monday's hearing.

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Tip to teens ...

From page A1

said a national survey in Britain showed that 14 percent of people aged between 16 and 34 used their personal music players for 20 hours a week.

More than a third of the 1,000 people questioned in the poll said they had ringing in the ears—a sign of damage to hearing—after listening to loud music.

"But our morning young people that they are powerful, with a new rule of 'going deaf' 30 years earlier than their parents' generation," said Vivienne Rhebard, chief executive of Deafness Research UK.

Young people are exposed to loud noise from MP3 players, sophisticated sound systems in homes, clubs and bars that can be cornerstones of the damaging effect it can have on hearing.

Nearly 40 percent of the people questioned in the poll said they did not know that listening to loud music on a personal music player or in clubs or bars could damage their hearing.

Twenty-eight percent said they were to noisy bars, pubs or nightclubs once a week.

"Hearing loss can make life unbearable. It can people off from their family and friends and makes everyday communication extremely difficult," Michael said in a statement.

60-60 rule

Deafness Research UK advises people to follow the 60-60 rule: Do not listen to your MP3 player at more than 60 percent of maximum volume and do not listen to it for more than 60 minutes at a time.

According to the charity, if the music from a headset is loud enough for the people around to hear, then it is loud enough to cause hearing damage.

Noise levels exceeding 135 decibels can damage hearing if endured for more than 15 minutes, according to Britain's Health and Safety Executive.

Normal conversation is about 60 decibels. Heavy traffic is about 85 decibels and loud personal music players are 112 decibels. Reuters

Defensor: GMA backing no kiss of death for '07 bets

BEING CLOSELY identified with a supposedly unpopular President may be just as [illegible] candidates tending to run in the 2007 elections, but Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor is confident that the public will base its choice on the candidates' strengths rather than their affiliations.

Defensor, who has personally expressed his own desire to run for the Senate next year, told the administration candidates keen to run for governors or governors and mayors in the 2006 polls portrayed strongly despite the low approval ratings of the President.

"The people did not look at the candidates as pro-Gloria or pro-this, they look at the candidates as individuals," [illegible] Defensor told reporters [illegible] meeting administration bets.

Defensor was responding to Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano's observation that the 2007 elections would be a penalty vote for or against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cayetano harked back to the 1984 election in Metro Manila when the opposition made a clean sweep of all the elective positions in order because the electorate turned the voting into a referendum on the unfavorable rule of late late Ferdinand Marcos.

Cayetano disputed Defensor's claim that being associated with the President would not be a disadvantage in the 2004 elections.

Defensor insisted that being linked to the President had no benefits [illegible] Cabinet [illegible].

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'Queer Eye' says GMA, Imelda need no makeover

From page A1

the "grooming guru" of the TV reality show, as he narrowed his host's portrait that hangs in the Presidential Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Collectively known as the Fab Five, Douglas, Carson Kressley, Thom Filicia, Jai Rodriguez and Ted Allen flew in early yesterday morning for a three-day visit.

Armed with wit and intelligence, they have been making waves with their global hit TV show that is dedicated to transforming "drab guys" into "fab guys" all over Manhattan.

Filicia Douglas is in charge of grooming, Kressley is known as the "fashion savant," Fillion as the "design doctor," Allen the "food and wine connoisseur," and Rodriguez the "culture maven."

'Oh, yes, she is'

Fresh impeachment complaints and accusations of corruption and electoral fraud notwithstanding, Ms Arroyo's physical resilience and style appeared to have impressed these authorities of beauty and fashion.

Douglas drew Kressley's attention to the President's smiling portrait, which the airport authority had gotten from Malacañang, and said: "Carson, look! This is your President. She's beautiful, isn't she?"

Kressley countered: even "Oh, yes, she is!" he said.

According to Douglas, the 59-year-old President has "the essential" for every woman—a pair of good earrings.

"I love her pearl earrings," he said, pointing at her left ear in the portrait.

Came a wicked question from reporters: Does she need a makeover?

Douglas' response: She certainly does not.

But naughtily, Douglas and Kressley noted that the color of Ms Arroyo's suit matched the color of the foliage perched beside the person.

(The petite President, who usually wears pantsuits and really high heels, gets fashion tips from model Justine Espiritu-Arcinas. Her personal hairdresser is Gener Miranda.)

'Lovely' Imelda

Douglas disclosed that he and Filicia met and had lunch with the widow of the strongman Ferdinand Marcos last year in Manila.

"We were fortunate enough to have a beautiful lunch with Imelda Marcos, and we had a great time," he said.

Douglas described the former first lady, a beauty queen in her youth, as "a lovely woman, highly intelligent, lavish and incredible perspective, and an immaculate, incredible sense of style."

Flashing his trademark gorgeous smile, he said: "She's excited to see what trouble we'll get into this time. You'll never know it's like when you come to the Philippines, who knows what's going to happen?"

Douglas said Filicia made over two girls and a guy during that brief visit last year.

But yesterday at the airport, the Fab Five had not been inside the Presidential Lounge for more than an hour when the usually ignited things in the 1,000-square-meter room and mainly by heads of state, government officials and other dignitaries caught their trained eye.

Rodriguez constantly took pictures with his mobile camera.

Filicia, one of House Beautiful's Top 100 American designers, admired the wooden carvings mounted on a wall partition.

"I love them. I think they're beautiful," he told the location as he examined the carvings made in Ifugao, Laguna, depicting highlights in Philippine history.

"The details and the craftsmanship are stunning. I think it's a very cool and interesting and modern way to tell the story of the Philippines," Filicia added.

Kressley's clothes

Douglas—at 41, engaged to an exec (because of such subjects as Filipino fashion, gayspeak, high credit card limits and foreign Cuisine) at the press conference held later in the day at the Makati Shangri-La hotel.

They had the crowd laughing (the moment they entered the Rizal Ballroom, as they dished out comments on stuff like the chandeliers and Kressley's clothes in particular).

"I haven't sat down in these clothes before," Kressley said, referring to his neon-green shirt and tight-fitting, cream-colored slacks.

The Fab Five recently finished filming their 100th episode—a milestone for "Queer Eye." (The series is shown exclusively on ETC every Monday at 9 p.m.)

The show is about five fashion-conscious gay men taking on a clueless straight guy—recommended for makeover usually by a girlfriend or a family member—to teach him some style.

The straight guy's clothes, demeanor, haircuts and cooking skills (or lack thereof) are all targets.

The hosts introduce him to the delights of facials, tanning salons, gourmet food and fashion labels, at the same time giving his home a makeover.

Dressed to the nines

Douglas, the first-ever ETCmal male underpersonas, remembered about his visit to the Philippines last year with Filicia and said he was glad to come back with the rest of the Fab Five.

"Everyone here is so warm and friendly. I told Carson that I was impressed that everyone, male and female, is dressed to the nines, and everyone has an incredible fashion sense," he said.

Douglas and company are here on the invitation of the Ayala Malls in partnership with Bench, to share "lifestyle-enhancing tips" on grooming, fashion, culture, food and the home with their fellow fans.

According to their manager, Michael Flavia, the Fab Five would have come for a visit even without an invitation.

"Ryan and Thom have said such good things about the Philippines to the others, so it would have been on their vacation list," Flavia said.

Kressley, who is hosting the Miss Universe 2006 pageant, said doing makeovers made him feel good. "In the show, we do the makeover and bring out the best in the person ... It's about making someone feel good and look good," he said.

Each member of the group is involved in projects other than the show. For example, Filicia recently completed the interior design of Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony's house in New York, and Rodriguez is in the cast of "The Producers," which stars Uma Thurman and Matthew Broderick.

'If you want more...'

The Fab Five said they would want to visit some of the Philippine islands if they had the time, and dispelled rumor that they had wrapped up their last episode.

"We are definitely coming back," said Kressley. "If you want more, we'd be happy to give you more."

The Fab Five were to visit Greenbelt 3 Park last night.

They are scheduled to be at the Glorietta 4(3rd) Center today at 4 p.m. and at the Megamall Event Center tomorrow at 10 a.m.

GIVING THEM THE EYE: Garry, ladies, but the five heartbreakers, billed as the "Fab Five" are taken by straight guy clueless on style and need makeovers. From left, Jai Rodriguez, Ryan Douglas, Thom Filicia and Carson Kressley. They are here on a three-day visit to promote their Emmy-nominated reality TV show now on its 100th episode aired here on ETC, Mondays at 9:00PM.

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Let the country be my judge, says Bishop Tobias

Regional Trial Court on Jan. 17 in connection with the failed Oakwood mutiny in 2003.

Sen. Arroyo was captured a month after the mutiny, while Reformist Lieutenants and Bonifacio, together with three other soldiers and two civilians were convicted in a Quezon City subdivision on July 7.

Christian charity

"Sanctuary is sanctuary—it is beyond the laws of man," Tobias said. "We do not give [evildoers] aid and comfort to break man's law. We give them sanctuary to give them the respect that we owe as children of God and the moral bearings to guide them in their actions."

"If, in [the government's view], I did something punishable by law, I'm willing to answer for my misdeeds," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said he doubted that the bishop would be charged criminally since the soldiers were still protected immunity with the rebellion charge against their civil proceedings could.

"The presumption of innocence runs until they are convicted," Pimentel said.

Even if Bishop Tobias gave temporary refuge . . . he committed no crime, the respondent said of Christian charity. And that is no crime," he said.

Tobias said he was not "committing good for the country" by providing the soldiers food and shelter.

While denying that Sen. Arroyo and company were plotting a coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Tobias also asked the young soldiers' comrades in that mutiny "repented" (implored).

"I think somehow, we were able to ease the situation," the prelate said, noting that it had always been the Church's goal to resolve conflicts through dialogue and never with the force of arms.

"We are not here to encourage," Tobias said, adding that the soldiers complained mostly about their commander in chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo. "They were just seeking help."

On July 14, Sen. Arroyo [illegible] his links with the rebellious Magdalo group, which, according to military authorities, was involved in a Digitel pull-out to embarrass the Arroyo administration. (Story on Page A1.)

Tobias said he didn't feel [illegible] by Sen. Arroyo's action, even if he opened the doors of his residence to the embattled soldier for there to five days or at least three to entertain.

Soldier's ideals

Asked what he would tell his fellow priests if they, too, agree, Tobias replied: "I understand your charge. But I hope it is a temporary charge and that you'll go back to your old ideals as soldiers."

Tobias said he had no regrets helping Sen. Arroyo even if it ensured that the soldier had turned against him.

"In politics, we believe in a degree of the Christian ethic—that [those] who seek sanctuary from perceived persecution must be given a reasonable opportunity," he said in a statement. "Our role is to enlighten and assist in the upbringing and eventual redemption of people."

The bishop said he had kept quiet about the help he had extended to the soldiers, citing the requirements of his priestly vocation.

Except for some members of his group, the Ellowey Malakastrong Ekonomiya, no one—not even his family or superiors in the Catholic Church—knew about the sanctuary he had provided, Tobias said.

"It's better that their [soldiers'] leaders see their [own] faults," he said.

Tobias' problem seemed to unfold beyond the refuge he had given to the rebel soldiers.

Two Army "loyalty" officers earlier claimed that he and five other Church leaders—Archbishop Angel Lagdameo and Deza Cruz, and Bishops Jesús Lores Labayen, Teodoro Bacani and Deogracias Iñiguez—were involved in a plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Can't scapegoat?

Like Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Tobias asked that she disappear for peerless.

"You must always have some scapegoat, right?" he said, alluding to the government. "But if you see your wisest, that disguise must for peerless, not just cursed."

Pimentel said the Church's history of making sure of providing sanctuary to those who are being persecuted or oppressed "[does] not [make] the bishop [even] a political."

He said Tobias' invited "some possibilities" with the act of Archbishop Roger Cardinal Mahony of Los Angeles, California, in giving sanctuary to illegal Hispanic immigrants who were being hounded by U.S. immigration authorities for deportation.

"However, it will be an entirely different matter if a bishop or priest is actively involved in the plot to overthrow the government," Pimentel said.

He said it was the duty of law enforcers to track down and arrest fugitives from the law.

"But if they fail to find the fugitives, this is not the fault of the bishop who gave them sanctuary," Pimentel said.

Due process

While it is the task of the Department of Justice to investigate Tobias, it should "observe due process" for all the accused in the failed Feb. 24 coup plot, several congressmen said yesterday.

"Pero [Translation] mayo dapat there is enough evidence to warrant the filing of any charges," said Rep. Bernardo Abesamis of Antipolo.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan of Eñrile's Junior said the same warning but also urged Catholic bishops not to silence colleagues who had taken sides in the lingering political crisis.

Libanan, vice chair of the House committee on [illegible] sessions, said the "issue was duty-bound to punish" those involved in the coup plot and just to stop [illegible] seditious and illegal messages to policemen.

But in ensuring the stability of the country and to "safeguard Philippine democracy," new said in the "future," the executive department should not be accused of having summarily dumped down on an entire, he said.

Get evidence first

"That's why the DOJ has to gather enough evidence against the suspects before filing charges against them. We also want to assure the public that the House of Representatives will duly execute [on the rights of the accused and] will not railroad," said Iñiguez.

Rep. Rolin Golez of Paranaque, for his part, pointed out that the Arroyo administration was in a "political and legal quicksand" as to efforts against the bishop.

"If the government pushes too hard, they could end up with a modern [illegible] in their hands and risk deeper into the quicksand. On the other hand, if government doesn't act, [the] ruling would be portrayed to have thrusted in the [illegible] to [illegible] sanctuary and [illegible] quicksand," said Golez. With reports from Philip C. Pobeda, Wilabel Lim Ellao and PDI Research

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 21 No. 203

A joke

THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA, HAMMERED THROUGH an Associated Press report, have picked up the Jennifer Lynn Bolante story. Details are sparse, indicating how much remains to be known about what exactly is going on in Los Angeles. The reports take note of the arrest warrant issued by the Philippine Senate, but hold back from suggesting that the wanton triggered Bolante's downtown. American officials simply state that Bolante arrived in Los Angeles from Hong Kong without a valid US visa, his visitor's visa having been "revoked by the US Department of State." Upon his arrival, Bolante was taken into federal custody. That was on July 7. Since then, he has been detained at the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center in San Pedro, California.

EDITORIAL

Yesterday, Bolante was summoned to appear before a federal court, although no hearing was scheduled. He also hasn't been formally charged with anything. And that's as far as American official and press commentary go.

Efforts by Philippine media to check court and other records (which would be of a public nature) to see if Bolante has been charged with anything have turned up no results. Politicians on both sides of the partisan divide have been falling over themselves trying to make quasi-worthy comments. Absent any further announcement from US authorities, whether in their embassy in Manila, in Los Angeles or Washington, D.C., the whole affair continues to be shrouded in mystery. And anything anyone says must be considered speculation.

Quite clearly, the country is wondering why the State Department canceled Bolante's visa—and in a manner that might even suggest it was done in mid-flight, about a prior cancellation should have been caught at the Hong Kong airport when he boarded his flight. Among other things, tens of thousands of Filipinos holding US visas have to be wondering whether the cancellation was done on a whim, as a means of entrapment, or if Bolante had been informed his visa was void.

And what on earth Bolante's in trouble for with the Americans is on everyone's mind. As is what he will do, now that he's a guest in a federal detention center. All we know are rumors that he is seeking political asylum.

Our government, however, has kept remarkably mum on Bolante's woes. And when it hasn't been strangely silent, its statements have boggled belief. An American official said that the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles was informed by fax and a phone call that Bolante was in American custody. Our government didn't inform the public of Bolante's detention until July 12, or five days after he was detained. In Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs said that was because they only learned about it on July 10. Which leads to two questions: If this is true, why did the Philippine Consulate take three days to tell Manila? And then why did it take the DFA in Manila another two days to tell the country?

DFA spokesman, Gilbert Asuque, rather lamely reasoned that Bolante's detention took place on a Friday (Saturday in Manila), and that there's no work on weekends. Asuque's statement is what Winston Churchill would have called a "terminological inexactitude" and what everyone else calls a lie. In every Philippine mission—as well as the DFA in Manila—there is always someone on duty, at all hours of the day, every day, precisely to receive and, if necessary, transmit information. And the Americans have said the information about Bolante's detention was indeed transmitted by them to our consulate.

So much for a culture of efficiency and service in our diplomatic missions. Either the Bolante experience is typical of what any Filipino suddenly detained by a foreign government can expect from our bumbling foreign service, or the DFA has been deliberately dragging its feet and had officials speak untruths to buy either Bolante or other people unwanted in his case time.

This looks very much like a cover-up, the same kind of bureaucratic boating-around-the-bush the country got when former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano vanished off the face of the earth.

The Philippine government definitely knows something about why the former agriculture undersecretary is in US custody. Its slowness and unwillingness to share information suggest it doesn't like what it knows. And the public doesn't like not knowing whatever it is our government knows. Our foreign service is a joke.

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Is Comelec under Ombudsman's jurisdiction?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE LAW IS INDEterminable and that justice is for all. Like soft clay in the hands of a sculptor, the law is what the interpreter of the law wants to make of it. The law is not what we indeed intended it to be; it is what a judge(s) in court(s) says it is. And members of courts, including the highest court of the land, sometimes have different interpretations of the same law. No wonder it is so difficult to get justice in our courts of law. Lawyers, who spend their lifetime studying the law, cannot agree on what laws mean. Now if legal experts can't agree on the meaning of a particular law, how can we expect the ordinary citizen to understand and obey it?

The above comes to mind because of the controversy over the Commission on Elections' bid to contract with the Mega Pacific consortium. The Supreme Court has ordered the Ombudsman to file charges against Comelec officials and stockholders of Mega Pacific, and set a deadline for it. The Ombudsman, in order to hear the deadline, hastily filed charges against Comelec officials, Mega Pacific and its officers, members of the bids and award committee (BAC). Then it called for a hearing, but the election commissioners refused to attend. They say they are under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman, they said.

The Comelec position is clear: The Comelec is a constitutional body and its members can be removed only by impeachment. Therefore, it cannot be under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

What about criminal liability? They became liable after they are impeached, according to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who uses a parallel at the Equitan in Manila (Hindi iiot Monday).

"We are not snubbing the Ombudsman," Abalos said. "We just want to obey the law. The place to go is the House of Representatives, to impeach us, not the Ombudsman."

But it was the Supreme Court that had ordered the Ombudsman to file the charges, I said.

"I think the Court erred," replied Abalos, a former judge. "The Court made a decision without facts. The Court is not a trier of facts, and it made a decision based on conjectures. We will contest him himself all the facts. Is he or did the Supreme Court arrive at its conclusion?"

Moreover, Abalos continued, "the Ombudsman did not gather for neither is just media to complained that it tallied the facts from the Supreme Court decision. What facts? The Supreme Court had no facts."

The Court said Mega Pacific is an "11 dormant" corporation that bagged a billion-peso contract, I said.

True, but that information came from Mega Pacific itself. It was not keeping a secret. Abalos added, because it must also be considered that packaged the whole thing from among several other companies with long, reputable track records in the industry. Mega Pacific was only the umbrella of the group.

The Court said the hiring of the machine was disadvantageous: from 8,000 to 82,000 pesos, I said.

"Yes, but that difference means, in real terms, only one cent to every 36,000 ballots," said Abalos. That would hardly make a difference in the results. Many municipalities have less than 36,000 voters. Besides, the Department of Science and Technology had certified the machines' efficiency.

But the most dangerous part of the Supreme Court order, Abalos added, is including mere shareholders of Mega Pacific among the persons to be charged. Liability is not limited to the officers and board members of Mega Pacific; it has includes all stockholders. That's like including all Meralco customers and PLDT subscribers, who are all stockholders of those corporations, criminally liable for the sins of their officers.

Besides, Abalos continued, Mega Pacific has fulfilled its part of the bargain. It has delivered all the machines contracted for and they're all in good order. What is their liability?

Aren't the machines overpriced?

The price is reasonable, Abalos countered. Its bid was lower than the floor price fixed by the Comelec. Its bid for the whole country was even lower than the cost of counting machines for only two regions bought by the previous Comelec. There is no basis for complaining of any "overprice scared." In fact, the compiling group, that of Namfrel's Joe Concepcion, was not a bidder at all.

The Court has ordered the Comelec to recover the machines and Mega Pacific to refund the money paid over.

Can you blame Mega Pacific if it does not return the money? Abalos asked. It has delivered the goods as promised. It has not violated any terms of the contract. It has invested so much money in the machines. As far as it is concerned, Comelec has not done anything wrong.

Can the machines be used in next year's election?

Yes, they are in good working condition, kept in air-conditioned rooms.

How this controversy will turn out will be interesting to watch. Can our legal experts untangle the contradictions in their interpretation of the law to make them logical and enforceable?

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Your surgeon asks discussing their work.

Surgeon No. 1: I think anesthetists are the easiest to operate on. Everything inside them is numbered.

Surgeon No. 2: Librarians are the easiest. When you open them up, their organs are arranged alphabetically.

Surgeon No. 3: I prefer to operate on electricians. Their organs are all color-coded.

Surgeon No. 4: You are all wrong. Politicians are the easiest. They're heartless, spineless, gutless and their heads and asses are interchangeable.

The nursing boards and the larger mess

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IT IS NOTHING NEW FOR US TO HEAR about another scandal, another mishap, in a government licensing examination. There are perennial causes for the aberration to pass—if not "cry"—about. The system is grossly flawed, we think. What is new is the setting: the CHED-linked surge in enrollments in higher education, and the enormous playground-driven demand for more board-certified graduates. It is this setting that makes the many exam-taint events more urgent, and the place of good university-level schools even more strategic.

The essential, over-present reasons are in a way so typically wonderfully Pinoy. We all love diplomacy. We hang dreams on walls, together with, for the older folk, framed Certificates of Pharcye in cap-and gown. Next, we love those board exams. Wasted, people are there as it evening exams that attest merely that the candidates has the minimum competence, nothing less, but quite nothing more. However, we still think they prove that the candidate is a genius (atop aside, fanatic), all of a sudden licensed to talk in strange technical jargon meant to impress rather than enlighten.

On the first, multi-trauma aside, for the Pinoy Freeman, degrees and board exams are the dramatic escape from one's assigned place in life: they are his entree into the finer classes. Believe it or not, the feudal attitude that each of us is born into a fixed station and immutable destiny has survived merely that the candidates has the minimum competence, nothing less, but quite nothing more. However, we still think they prove that the candidate is a genius (atop aside, fanatic), all of a sudden licensed to talk in strange technical jargon meant to impress rather than enlighten.

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Commencement day and the oath-taking are tangible moments of triumph from that ordained position. By tokens of our diploma-papers and eyeing one's social and market worth is conducted, and we proudly announce the title, that is an achievement that no one can take away from you. By refusal we imply that everything else that is your before was given to others—who, therefore, can also take them back).

Board and bar exams are even more special. They are "blind graded" exams, where the "teacher" doesn't know if the paper he is checking belongs to the daughter of Cinta Boeling or the son of Boeling's labandera. They stand on equal footing before the graders, and to be treated equally is, again, believe it or not, a rarity in Pinoy life. Everywhere else, he is judged by his clothes, his titles, his position, his access. Before the government boards, he competes solely on his own talent and strength. Board and bar exams therefore embody the meritocratic ideal, the pride in beating others in a fair and square contest, the democratic element about the level playing field.

That is why the scandal in the nursing board exams irks us so. Whoever leaked out those handwritten notes shortchanged all those hopeful souls who took the exam on June 25. Therefore, unless the actual culprits or individual thieves are found, the only proper course of action is to cancel and order the results of the national examination altogether. Its integrity has been breached, its results are not reliable. To compel the passers to retake the exam that have already passed—that makes them the innocent victims of other peoples' greed and cunning. That is sad, but that is a legitimate price to exact. It allow the cheaters to be found out(fired and to public shame their colleagues. The public empowered from the incompetent and rewards the dishonest with honors undeserved.

The nursing board's decision to release the results prematurely while the investigation is on-going is a strategic move to silence the critics. Politically, it creates a solid constituency—all those who passed—who will lobby that exam results be maintained. (I doubt if those who flunked will conversely have the intention to either impugn the exam or testify on the leak. Even if they are clear "incentivized," ostensibly they wouldn't have as much credibility as the passers have.)

Legally the nursing board announcement may have (perhaps on purpose) "created" certain rights in every person on the list of passers, unless the board had expressly made reservations when they released that list. Either way, the board's undertaker raises even more questions.

We are running away a golden opportunity by allowing nursing education to succumb to the entrepreneurs of the market, when in fact the market can be harnessed to benefit nursing advocacies.

Who could have imagined the blossoming of private universities fueled by OFW money? The Filipino family, long smitten by fancy diplomas, all of a sudden has disposable income. And guess what they choose to spend it on? That's the most noble, most natural path in the road to a cultured life for children, and be it than invests in a resume that will outlive him, but must make the most of this sudden surge in enrollment.

Nursing schools have become even more eagerly amassed. Like the rest of the colleges, they have appliances knocking at their gates. But even better, they have interested employers turning the dean's office.

The papers have lamented the lame overall, nature of nursing schools and the Commission on Higher Education's feeble enforcement of academic standards to accommodate powerful lobbies. The nursing board leakage is just the latest scandal that underlines public trust in the educational system. Unfortunately, the Filipino public may be forgiving and cheap, but the foreign public is exacting and demanding. The nursing school licensure thrives because of the foreign public. To lose it is not just another school-year postponement: we suffer a killing, it is to let the goose that lays the golden egg.

* * *

Comments to pascalan@yahoo.com

Why not abolish Sona?

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

BY ORDINANCE WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address, she would be entering the second half of her elected term. The first half has been interrupted and petrified by the political crisis over her government's legitimacy. During that period, all the approaches that were used to break the impasse have failed. The standoff has left the nation drained, tired and weary.

As the country stands on the crossroads of a government's mid-term, there is keen anticipation as to what fresh initiative the administration would take to overcome the political deadlock that has crippled the Philippines' drive for economic development. Many are waiting for the words, formulations and approaches of the year to see its end.

In the mid-1960's, the President proposed to institutionalize reforms in the federalist mode of organization as well as for internal renewal. That centerpiece of the 2000 initiative didn't catch fire. Surely, the country will not be receptive to any proposal to change the system of government unless the reasons for the need to change are clearly explained and understood by the people.

The legitimacy issue that broke out over the 2004 election of President Macapagal-Arroyo has left every element of the political system—the executive, the legislature, the Catholic Church, the MNLF and the CPP-NPA—totally addled. Within a year, all possible shifts to bring about leadership change available in the political system were tried, ranging from impeachment, constitutional coup, Cabinet resignations, street protests demanding the President's resignation, impeachment, people's initiative for unicameral change to bishops' pastoral letters. Both impeachment and people's initiative failed. But the issues don't die that easy. It's not bloody and messy when our people want a change without quite touching blood. That's why they get enamored of people power, in the 1986 and 2001.

That's why, I don't have high expectations that on Monday when the administration, the opposition or the various arenas of civil society will come forward with a new theme beyond last night's television or fresh proposals that would effect the issues. That window has to prepare the ground for the changes that are necessary to cure the dysfunctions of the political system and avoid raising false expectations, the President should do away with the Sona.

Certainly, we need a roadmap of our destination for the next year in the time that we remain. The Sona is supposed to provide that map and blueprint points. But the roadmaps set out by previous Sonas have led to dead ends.

There are unmistakable signposts ahead. Next year, as the Constitution directs, there will be a mid-term election. Traditionally, under our American-style presidential system, that election is the best opportunity for the citizens to express their vote of confidence in a government they elected, together with the vice president, in the 2004 election. They will express their decision on the representatives they will elect to Congress. In 2007, we shall know whether the Lakas-coalition will hold its majority in the Senate and whether the balance of power will change in the Senate. With the results, we would know whether a change of balance in Congress would allow an impeachment case to prosper.

I still see encouraging support on issues that the 2007 elections would offer those that legitimacy issue over the signs or lead us to the truth of whether the Arroyo-cheated in 2004. That's too much to expect. All that the elections can do is give the sovereign people their due to express their vote of confidence in the government.

When this people vote, they will not be so naive to see home. The Philippine government, however, for lack of funds, has resorted to sourcing out a flurry of services to different governments tagging them to give Filipinos free rides on transportation of all kinds.

The "birth of Bambi" comes is puzzling, since the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), boasts of billions in contingency funds drawn from the wages of overseas workers themselves. Why can't this money be used to help our people in the Philippines in Lebanon? And why can't the national government release funds from the national treasury, if need be, to protect Filipino lives?

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The question of whether to—or how to—replace or to replace to gather at a Catholic parish in Beirut and dispatching Ambassador Roy Cimatu to organize the evacuation effort—more puny and ineffectual than ever. Even the Philippine government's latest acquisition to get their people out of harm's way, indeed, is worthy fear in the midst of a major international crisis, the best any officials can do is saving their hands and spread the help from other countries.

• • •

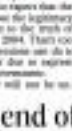
OPEN more pathetic is the foreign policy declarations made by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in the wake of the Lebanon crisis. Ermita: "I don't think we should ever be involved." Ermita is quoted as saying. But like it or not, we are involved precisely because Filipinos find themselves caught in it.

Given the number of Filipinos working abroad, and the reach of their diaspora in practically every corner of the world, we need to keep a vigilant watch for the next crisis. First, we need the national interest, and second, protect Filipinos first whatever conflicts or tensions arises.

We cannot just say "we're not going to intervene" when our fellow Filipinos are at risk. And we cannot keep scrambling for stop-gap solutions each time workers erupt. Given the number of people we've been exporting workers, and the billions these workers have been sending home, we owe it to them to have contingency plans in place, with resources at the ready and deployed with every crisis.

'No peace at the end of this'

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

IMAGINE IF AFTER TWO ABDUCTIONS INVOLVING some Malaysians and kidnapping members of business and Malaysian tourist employees, the Malaysian government decided to retaliate by bombing metro Manila and killing hundreds of civilians.

This, in essence, is what the Israeli government has done in the midst of the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers at the Israel-Lebanon border through Hezbollah, a militant group that has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, saying they had carried it out to bargain for the release of Palestinians and Lebanese in Israeli jails. Israel's response has been massive bombing of Lebanon, killing the Hezbollah fighters in the country and the general populations. Bombs have landed not just on suspected Hezbollah lairs but even in the supposedly safe areas that Lebanese civilians, one assumes, have retreated to.

Lebanon, said a BBC reporter, is being "torn to shreds," since the bombardments started, according to the BBC, "threatening to tip the scales of the country's delicate sectarian balance." Apprehensive about the scale and targets of their retaliation, A spokesman even justified the bombing of civilian infrastructure in Lebanon as the government's attempt to isolate Hezbollah from the support it receives within the country. This attack the so said, since the guerrillas are mostly concentrated in southern Lebanon anyway, and the bombing of Beirut airport, for example, except perhaps to score propaganda points.

• • •

THE SAME and disproportionate retaliation of Israel is what prompted Israeli film maestro Yehuda Kaveh, released last year and produced and directed by Steven Spielberg, which won a strong message provoked on the Israeli people's conscience and half-victimized by the overly secret and persecution. It was also a message the Arab neighbors have been saying. Israel has been a destabilizing presence in the Middle East, for its policy of retaliating vengeance for every incident it deems to be a threat to its security, and for its unwillingness to explore the possibilities for conflict and a never-ending cycle of retribution.

"Munich" is based on the memoirs of an Israeli agent who was assigned in 1972 to go after the people believed to be behind the massacre of Israeli athletes held hostage at the Olympics in Munich Olympics. With his team, "Avner"—the cinema-Israeli bombing down the men marked in a list provided by Israeli intelligence. But as the assassination team progresses, he begins to doubt not just the decisions he's been the men on the list and the motivations, but also the wisdom of the policy behind his assignment. As they go after the PLO leaders and their aides, Israel's retaliation kills not just its own targets, embarking on plane hijackings, airport bombings and their own assassination. A result for a bomb, indeed.

Some of Israel's reactions may be and his team have turned into the very same people they were assigned to hunt down. And as he attempts to leave the cursed service and join his family in peace, he realizes that there is no safe haven for his own government will grant him leave to live in peace.

"There is no peace to the end of this," someone says toward the end of the film. It might well be a comment on the current conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

• • •

FOR Filipinos, memory in the Middle East conjure conflicts mainly on the fate of the thousands of overseas workers trapped in Lebanon, many of them domestic workers abandoned by their employers.

Other governments have mobilized buses, planes and ships to move their nationals out of Lebanon and to staging areas where they could be safe to see home. The Philippine government, however, for lack of funds, has resorted to sourcing out a flurry of services to different governments tagging them to give Filipinos free rides on transportation of all kinds.

The "birth of Bambi" comes is puzzling, since the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), boasts of billions in contingency funds drawn from the wages of overseas workers themselves. Why can't this money be used to help our people in the Philippines in Lebanon? And why can't the national government release funds from the national treasury, if need be, to protect Filipino lives?

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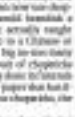
Table manners in Asean countries

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE IS A VERY INFORMATIVE SERIES OF books published by Asean that should get a wider audience. These are nine volumes on various aspects of national culture and cultural life in the region. There is a volume on literature, on theater, on architecture, on costume, on textiles, on cuisine, on performing arts and now there are enough books to fill a small shelf. These books are not for sale and they never made it to our bookstores, so don't bother with the attempts of readers who would be interested in them. Sad.

One of the thick volumes that caught my attention was "Social Customs Among Asean Students" (Asean Committee on Culture and Information, 1981). I was surprised to discover that these publications have been issued over the years by the Asean Committee on Culture and now there are enough books to fill a small shelf. These books are not for sale and they never made it to our bookstores, so don't bother with the attempts of readers who would be interested in them. Sad.

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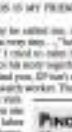
Bungad's story



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee

ACTUALLY, THIS IS MY FRIEND GP's (ALSO KNOWN AS ANGELFOOT)

The other day he called me, not knowing where to start. "Crap! for once in every time . . ." he began.

"Wait, wait," I cried to calm him down, and eventually I was able to piece his story together: the bellhop helped to deliver a baby! Mind you, GP isn't a doctor, a nurse, a midwife, or a barangay health worker. The closest of his kindred, now, happened to be with

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee

it's one of those amazing tales of the city, "and" have been

Is boxing a sport?

LETTERS

CALL ME "SPLENDOSEXUALITIC." Call me "sexy-intoxicating," but there is no way I can be convinced to watch a two-hr. July 22 rerun of the Philippine boxing team, led by Manny Pacquiao.

First of all, is boxing really a sport? Boxing was invented as a form of entertainment for "civil" people. Only slaves were required to fight against each other for the sheer enjoyment of their masters. Years on, it becomes a far cry of gentlemanly which up to now, it is not so. So are Filipinos really fans (enthusiasts) of brutal, inhuman gambles?

I spoke to my friends who are Mexicans and they told me that boxing is not really a sport in their country. I was shocked to see people like the Mexicans enjoy such a violent spectacle. Don't we realize how many people have been injured, damaged and physically incapacitated by this "so-called sport"?

—ABDULRAHMAN ANTONIO LEONIDO,
514 Gen. Luna St., Barangay Pringa, Guadalupe, Makati

Helpless in Lebanon

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

AS AN OVERSEAS FILIPINO worker, I am horrified by the slow and cautious response of the Philippine government to the plight of 30,000 Filipino workers who are helplessly trapped in Lebanon.

The government, as expected, has again made the excuse of lack of funds. Without even first canvassing its cost-assistance mechanisms, it has already resorted to outside support, such as asking for the help of the Vatican. The government's so-called "innovative" ways to secure the lives of its citizens in Lebanon include sending refugs in Catholic churches, as if these inhumanitarian sin initiatives from boldfaced lies.

Other governments, even before the war broke, already had clear evacuation plans for their citizens. The Philippines, which has the second-highest number of nationals in Lebanon (Canada has the highest at 40,000 citizens), did not even have the foresight to plan for possible evacuation even as war was looming.

Estelita Hicos, president of a seamstress' group and who sits conveniently on the board of trustees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), overdecked, richer unrepentable. Had other seamstresses in Lebanon not set their feet and worry, even if the emergency alert level was already at No. 3.

OFWs send billions of dollars to the Philippines ($11.3 billion last year), and even a single cent is allocated for helping overseas Filipinos in a crisis? What is the emergency repatriation fund of $100 million that should have been allotted for such cases as mandated in the Migrant Workers Act billions of pesos in OWWA funds?

Simultaneous from OFWs, keep the Philippine economy afloat and the least that this ungrateful government can do is ensure that the "walking cows" are out of danger to find the remittances won't be that apt. According to Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor and Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, it would cost $300 to $400 to have each person sent by ship, or $12 million for all the 30,000 Filipinos in Lebanon. What is $12 million compared with the billions of dollars that we OFWs send back to the country? What is $12 million if that is the cost of our lives?

With the help of these governments, most foreign nationals have left Lebanon already. Some of the biggest wars in various since World War II. Meanwhile, the Philippine government is still debating how to repatriate OFWs, some of whom were abandoned by their employers who fled Lebanon.

There have been reports of Filipino evacuees in one church being pulled by soldiers. Beyond ifs, buts and maybes, one fact remains: Filipinos are not cows.

What a labor to instill!—Albert Sape, 13-I Block 8, Greenlawn Heights, Bunsing, Malolos (bsape@...)

Beirut's lone ...

From page A1

scene to scene in Damascus in nine hours.

Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz said that before the conflict, Batasan-ee could usually be reached in two hours. The beach on cellist, however, had disrupted major roads and bridges so the Philippine Embassy would have to take several detours, he said.

Chartered flight

From Damascus, the Filipinos will board a chartered Lockheed L1 aircraft of Jordanian airlines to fly them directly to the Philippines.

The group is expected to arrive in Manila at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Total expenses for the OFWs' trip home would amount to $500,000, according to Cruz.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion described that major expenditure as still voluntary, explaining that ultimately the pace of the evacuation would depend on the willingness of the OFWs to leave.

Most funds would be released if the number of OFWs wanting to leave rises. If other routes out of Lebanon (such as by ship to Cyprus) would be closed, or if the situation deteriorated and the foreign department issued a mass evacuation order, according to Brion.

P150 million more

The Philippine government has released an additional P150 million for the evacuation of Filipino workers in Lebanon, but many of them wished to remain despite intensifying bombardment of Israel's military on other parts of the country that have left more than 300 people dead, officials said yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the P200 million was on top of the P25 million that was earlier allotted by the Department of Foreign Affairs for the evacuation of the overseas Filipino workers.

Brion said only about 1,000 OFWs had so far registered at the Philippine Embassy in Beirut to indicate their willingness to be evacuated if the level of hostilities worsened.

"Not all would like to be repatriated though, many want to stay," Brion said. "They believe that this problem would come and go and that there is no place where peace returns."

Boy Cimatu, special envoy to the Middle East, said he still had to "assess the situation on the ground" before deciding whether there was a need to order a mandatory evacuation of the OFWs in Lebanon.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said majority of the OFWs wanted to remain with their employers. "Ultimately, the decision is with the workers. We gave them a choice [of] a repatriation program and loans and airplanes that could bring them home," Asuque said.

Slow response

However, Grace Bagilado of Migrante International, a support group for overseas workers, denied that most Filipinos wanted to stay and said the government's response was being determined by money.

"It is not true that many Filipinos do not want to go home. Filipinos do not want to go home because the foreign office wants to portray. We have talked to many of them and they said they had not received anything from the embassy," she said.

"The first thing anyone will think of in a situation like this is to save his own life. There is just neglect in the measures by which the government responded," Bagilado said on the 3rd families of workers stuck in Lebanon in a protest outside the DFA office in Manila.

The Philippine Association of Overseas Employment condemned to salute OFWs in Lebanon to either stay with their employers or go to education sites, pinpointed by the Philippine Embassy in Beirut.

Appeal to Israel, Hezbollah

President Arroyo appealed to Israel and Hezbollah to refrain from harming Filipinos stranded in Lebanon and urged the international community to help evacuate them.

"The Philippines makes a special appeal to all combatant forces to spare Filipino nationals who have no wish other than to be taken out of harm's way," she said in a statement.

"For the sake of humanity, I ask the combatants not to harm them," she added, while appealing for other countries to "help us in the evacuation process."

Filipino officials have estimated that they are unable to evacuate thousands of people on their own, and the government has appealed to the United States, European countries and the Gulf states to find space for Filipinos on planes and ships evacuating people from Beirut.

Assistance fund

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the P150 million would come from the DSWD Assistance to Nationals Fund, a standby fund tapped for contingencies involving Filipinos abroad.

In a statement, Andaya quoted a letter sent by the DSWD to his office in which the department said it would use the P150 million for "supplies, transport and communication" needed for the "emergency relocation" of Filipinos in Lebanon.

It appeared the P150 million would include the $2 million that the Cimatu had appeared yesterday for release as an "initial standby fund" for the evacuation and repatriation of the OFWs in Beirut.

Brion told reporters the Cimatu money would be used to cover transportation and other incidental expenses for the first 2,000 evacuees.

Sovereign guarantee

Saying that OFWs must also "be covered by a sovereign guarantee," Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday proposed a supplemental budget to enable the country's foreign creditors this year while funds were lacking for the evacuation of the Filipino workers.

He said the remittances of the OFWs in Lebanon were "something that can't be measured as" $200 million of them sending back to the Philippines an estimated P6,000 onwards, or a total of P72,000 a year, their combined contribution in the economy "is a staggering P2 billion a year," Recto said.

$2M to bring home OFWs

In her phone conversation with Cimatu, Ms Arroyo said she asked for the P150 million after learning that he needed $2 million to leave ship and plane for the OFWs.

"Bring them home safely just as you did to Iraq," Ms Arroyo told Cimatu, referring to the first batch of 112 OFWs he would be picking up in Damascus.

The President acknowledged that government resources to handle the OFWs out of Lebanon may not be enough.

"Our resources may not be enough but we're trying to address the problem by teaming up with other foreign countries that could help us in the evacuation process," she said in her statement. With reports from Philip C. Tubeza in Manila and AFP

HOTLINES

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMployment Administration (POEA) and the Manila-based organization of Lebanon-deploying recruiters, the Philippine Association of Mediterranean Agencies Deploying Labour, Inc. (Pamadel), released a list showing where Filipinos are working in Lebanon.

As of 2006, there are about 18,000 OFWs in Beirut, 877 in Sidon, 1,000 in Tyre, 372 in Jbeil, 200 in Amshit, 102 in Batroun, 63 in Jubail, 46 Others are found in Mansile, Baalbek, Nacache, Chtah, El Mina, Hermel, Barouse, Zahle, Sidon, Jounie, Ec Zahrani, Tyre and Nagoura.

Pamadel president Carolina Go also yesterday opened a crisis coordination office for OFWs in Lebanon in the group's office on Angel Linao and Jim Andres Streets in Makati, Manila (hotline: 522-44-16).

The center will be manned 24 hours by Pamadel members or representatives, who will receive information from thousands of distressed relatives of the OFWs.

In Iloilo City, the POEA office will be open 24 hours to answer inquiries from relatives of OFWs.

Relatives could also call the Ovesea regional office's hotline—033-337-9684—for their inquiries. Relatives can give the names of the people they are looking for so that the Overseas can match their with the list of those being evacuated in Lebanon.

Pulse Asia survey: 27% don't believe GMA Sona will be truthful

NEARLY ONE IN EVERY FOUR Filipinos who were aware of President Macapagal-Arroyo's past State of the Nation Addresses does not believe that her own Sona, which she is set to deliver on Monday, will be truthful, according to results of a survey by Pulse Asia Inc.

The Sona, which outlines the President's programs next policy initiatives for the year, is delivered at the joint session of the House of Representatives and Senate to formally signal the opening of the regular session of Congress.

A considerable majority (65 percent) said they were aware of the President's previous addresses, with the awareness level highest in Metro Manila (80 percent) and among classes ABC (90 percent).

The number of those who believe the Sona would not be truthful dropped from 45 percent in July 2005 to 27 percent this year.

But more than half (56 percent) said they were undecided on the truthfulness of the upcoming Sona, Mr Arroyo's sixth since 2001. This ambivalence was evident across geographic areas and socioeconomic classes.

Nearly one in two (8 ipinos—or around 15 million Filipino adults—is unable to say whether the President's previous Sonas had been truthful.

Between July 2005 and July 2006, this level of indecision increased from 38 percent to 49 percent.

While the number of Filipinos who thought that the previous Sonas had not been truthful decreased from 44 percent in July 2005 to 31 percent this year, the number of Filipinos who believes in the truthfulness of the past addresses stayed at almost the same level, from 18 percent in July 2005 to 19 percent, in July 2006.

The nationwide survey was conducted between June 29 and July 8 using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 representative adults aged 18 years and above. It has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Tell the truth

In the House, Deputy Minority Leader Aber Peter Cayetano called on Ms Arroyo to "tell the truth" in her Sona on July 24.

Cayetano said the Sona had become the platform of Presidents for "propaganda and window-dressing ... of their achievements." He let them in original purpose of telling the true state of the nation and of outlining its problems and challenges.

He urged Ms Arroyo whose this 4Sona sincerely and said Arroyo Sona are seeking to assure not to "waste a great opportunity of harnessing national support in nation building and solving our country's problems."

Unless tabled changes were done, the senatory would cause time to be in a state of paralysis, said Cayetano, who believed that the country had stopped moving since 2004.

"We challenge President Arroyo to tell the true Sona and call for genuine reforms," he said. Rogelio M. dela Rama, *PDI Research*, and Michael Lim Ubac

16,000 cops: City a fortress for Sona

From page A1

operations group of the New People's Army from Mindoro would key to sneak into the capital and lob grenades if the protests turned violent. The AFP is the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

'Master of story telling'

Querol said the police were trying to seal "back doors" where communist rebels might try to use to get to the capital.

But militants dismissed the report as fabricated and called Querol a "master of grand storytelling."

"Ito! Our several convoys of protesters were deliberately barred last year from entering the capital to join rallies at the Batasan complex in Quezon City, PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said. "My instructions were: Do go after] bona fide firearms and explosives, and not to harass commuters, passersby and those who would like to attend the Sona."

Calderon assured millions that "there shall be no harassment whatsoever."

He said the police were not expecting clashes on July 24.

Plastic handcuffs

Even then, the NCRPO has purchased some 500 plastic handcuffs for those who might be arrested.

They are deemed to cause less injury compared to metal handcuffs, according to Querol.

Asked if the police meant to intimidate protesters, hours the deployment of 16,000 men, Calderon said only about 7,000 to 8,000 cops would be tasked with securing the Batasan complex and the roads leading to it.

"First assured our boys who will be fielded are fully trained ... We have a swarm of graduate[coppanas," he said, adding if the crowd gets rowdy, police will apply a "countermeasure force."

Rallies are expected to go on full alert on Sunday, which means all leaves and passes of policemen are canceled.

WE COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT HOW IT GOES ON AND ON.

intel Xeon inside

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Senga misled Lim, Querubin to foil coup try, say probers

By Dona Z. Pazdigan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Generoso Senga had deliberately misled ex-Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin in order to foil the attempted coup President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24, military investigators claimed yesterday.

"The story will show that what succeeded here was the actions of the CS (Chief of Staff Senga)," Armed Forces Inspector General Vice Admiral Rufino Lopez said in a news conference yesterday where he announced the results of the investigations he headed this far.

"The action of the CS generated what could have been a coup d'etat," said Lopez, who headed the eight-person committee that Senga formed in April to investigate the plot.

Lopez announced the panel's findings as the top of Senga's controversies as military chief of staff.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon will replace Senga who served for 11 months.

Lopez boiled reports that Senga had initially agreed to Lim and Querubin's proposition to lead a military withdrawal of support from President Arroyo during the Edsa People Power anniversary on Feb. 24.

Senga not investigated

But he admitted that investigators did not question Senga.

Headed by other members of the committee, Lopez announced Senga had approved the committee's recommendation to start court-martial proceedings against Lim, Querubin, ex-Marine Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda and 17 other former Kuratot and Marine officers.

A total of 123 Scout Ranger enlisted personnel would also undergo further investigation and summary dismissal proceedings before the Army, according to Lopez.

"We can safely say there was a plan of withdrawal of support. The Lim videotape all the more confirmed the plan... By the military junior women, by our Articles of War, that is tantamount to mutiny and siege/Force," Lopez said.

"They're trying to create scenarios similar to Edsa 1 and 2," he added.

All officers, including the major service commanders who had a part in the Feb. 23 Feb. 26 events, "were given the chance to explain their participation, refute they had conspired," Lopez further began.

"The CS is not under our investigation. He formed our panel... He directed this green confidence," Lopez reasoned out.

In a draft report, the committee said Lim and Querubin met with foreign and military attaches in Hardstop, 6th deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J2), around 7 p.m. of Feb. 23.

After hearing of Lim and Querubin's plan to march to Edsa and withdraw support from President Arroyo, Senga called his cronies Miranda and 17 other Scout Rangers and Marine officers.

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Delaying tactic

According to Lopez, the "delay" on Senga's part was deliberate so he could prepare countermeasures with Lim and Querubin out of time to react.

"If I know the CS, he's a good, seasoned field commander. He is an intelligence officer. You may not know he was once a G (chief) fluent in our conversations, he had time on his side. The other side was in need of time, so the delay was to his advantage. He had to get the facts, the information," said Lopez.

"When he gave the instructions to Lim and Querubin not to push through with their plans), the AFP was ready," Lopez said.

He added that Senga deliberately delayed committing his participation to Lim and Querubin.

"Military commanders will tell you that, Kimura as late as 10's part of the game plan," Lopez said, citing a form of bluff.

"The CS knows where his heart is. He is a counterintruder," Lopez went on, adding that the rest of the top brass, including Marking, "were clear about their position" to stick to the chain of command.

Lopez, however, could not say why after giving the warning, Senga allowed Lim, Querubin and Miranda to leave and return to Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio when 30-minute radio on emergency meeting around 11 a.m. of Feb. 24.

While the Marine officers were meeting, Senga presided over a meeting in the AFP Wise Room.

Lopez also could not say whether Lim asked or he taken into custody or whether Senga ordered it.

He said allegations that Senga vacillated were "very unfair."

On Wednesday, Senga approved the raft recommendations made by the committee starting with court-martial proceedings against 23 Scout Ranger officers and 11 Marine officers.

Officers relieved of posts

He also approved the recommendation to relieve these officers from their posts and place them "under custody" of their commanding officers.

"With the approval of the chief of staff, it is charged that offices immediately," said Lopez.

These officers will also have dismissal proceedings before the Army and Navy Efficiency and Separation Boards.

"Officers and enlisted personnel found to have participated in any destabilization activities against the government should be removed from the military service," said the Lopez committee report.

Lopez yesterday did not identify the other officers implicated in the Feb. 24 plot. Except for Querubin, none of the Marine officers implicated had been ordered to quarters. In fact many of those were given assignments.

Gringo behind coup, San Juan details in affidavit on Feb. 24 plot

From page A1

the revolution against Ignite.

The affidavit appeared to flesh out official accounts of alleged coup-plotting plots against Mr. Arroyo by the Magdalo and its efforts to forge alliances with civil society groups and communist rebels.

Honasan-Lim link

It also revealed for the alleged plot as coup President Arroyo in February by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim involved Honasan.

The document sought to establish that Lim's statements withdrawing support from the Arroyo on Feb. 24 had been prepared months earlier to coincide with Honasan, according to Lim's claim that he did not know to government.

It was the first time that Honasan's group, the Magdalo group (Kawal Magdalo (MKO), and Lim's group dubbed "Para sa Bayan" had been directly linked to the plot.

Lim had reportedly said he was given the extension which he used for video taping on the eve of the supposed disavowal of loyalty to Mr. Arroyo in a bid to force her to resign or part of an arrangement with disgruntled military to avoid a violent uprising.

In the document, Mr. San Juan also named several other active and retired military officers, politicians and known anti-Arroyo exiles who supposedly supported Honasan's plot.

A copy of the document drawn up by Lt. Col. Antonio Trillanes IV, the alleged mastermind of the Oakwood hostage-taking in July 2003 but had gone underground. He had been involved in several coup attempts against ex-President Gloria Arroyo before he was elected senator.

First meeting

The document said that from five core Honasan in 2002 in Antipolo City which he was then a phone leader of the Light Reaction Company.

"Group told on the scenes behind the 1986, 1987 and 1989 coups). He said the problems we were experiencing now in the AFP were the same ones they had experienced before," San Juan reportedly said.

"There he asked us if we were set to fight for a cause, for reforms, for genuine change. This was the time I affirmed my desire to join the group," he said.

According to the affidavit, more meetings among leaders and followers of the Magdalo followed, including one in the house of former President Joseph Estrada's daughter executive secretary Ramon "Bo" Carandang during the first quarter of 2002 that was attended by 15 to 20 officers.

Honasan introduced himself as "Papa," the affidavit said. It was here that they marked their left arms with the "alibata" letter "k." Honasan himself demonstrated how it was done, San Juan said, showing his arm that still bore a fresh wound in the shape of the letter, indicating he had just provided even a similar trend.

A worthwhile project

Honasan remarked: "This is a worthwhile project. Let us intensify the recruitment so there would be many like you. I would rather spend my path hazard for people like you with good intentions for the country rather than have it spent just anywhere else."

San Juan said he received P5,000 after the meeting as reimbursement of his travel expenses.

In December 2004, San Juan said he attended another meeting in or near the Ortigas area. The plan was a "big house with a shopping garage" near a guesthouse.

"I noticed the activity was more organized than other ones I've had during the Magdalo days," said. Present were Gringo, Col. Felix Santiago and Col. Jake Malijan, "whom the group identified as the videos," the document said.

Other plotters

In a news conference on July 14, San Juan denied that he had identified their financiers and supporters as part of the arrangement for his pursuit to the military.

The affidavit said among those San Juan plotted with aside from Honasan and Lim were detained Marine Col. Ariel Querubin; a group of retired officers including Malijan (ret.), Santiago, Col. Rafael Galvez, Victor Ilarde and Bel Acosta, former University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo and activist Renato Constantino Jr.

It said among the many meetings plotters made from 2002 to 2006 some earlier was the residence of Ambassador Raymundo Puno-gao in 2006.

San Juan claimed in the affidavit that the Magdalo rebels reorganized months after the Oakwood mutiny and Gen. Angelo Reyes was able to get out of being detention several times to meet with Honasan et al.

Withdrawal manifesto

San Juan said sometime in the third quarter of 2005, he attended a brief meeting among (ex-Quezon, Honasan, Trillanes, Malijan, a certain Mark (supposedly Militante's nom name), 1st Lt. Augilbert Gay and 1st Lt. Alden Saldivando at the "New" Magdalo house owned by Makati City.

San Juan claimed he heard Lim mention a "manifesto regarding the withdrawal of support to be signed by senior officers."

"I also heard Gringo say "Strategic to speaking to our neighborhood kung kaya ng kaya ng [unintelligible] leader," San Juan said.

San Juan said Honasan left shortly after saying he was meeting with former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Puno who also had enlisted by the military to take planned military junta.

San Juan claimed he along with Gay and Saldivando again attended a meeting between Lim, Querubin, Honasan, Trillanes, Odhnaiel Gumiran and Gringo in a condominium in Sikh Park in Mandaluyong City sometime in the last quarter of 2005.

He claimed he met with Honasan and Commodore during the third quarter of 2005 in Greenhills to discuss "National Recovery Program and the Blue Print for a Stable Philippines. He claimed "Barely David was not able to attend. "David is a University of the Philippines professor and Honasan confidant.

Nemenzo confirmed the meeting with San Juan. He said the topics that he approved of the use of "people power" to remove a president whose legitimacy was in doubt, but not a coup.

Affidavit excerpts: Real reform should start now

From page A1

big right now in the AFP are the same they experienced before. He pointed out that the reforms they wanted before have not materialized by the fact that officers and soldiers in the field there and were are facing the same issues. He further said that reforms should start now. Then he added as if we want to fight for cause, for reforms, for genuine change. This was the time I affirmed my desire to join the group. "During this time, I still don't know the name of the group and what the group would do. At around 1:00 in the morning the meeting was adjourned.

"Sometime on the 1st quarter of 2002, I attended another meeting. This was my 3rd meeting with the group. It was CPT MARIO BAGASBAS who led the instruction-session in the. I was directed to a place along (illegible) area. (I regret) remember the exact place) and was briefed by an American vessels the war, I was several junior officers in the house of Eddy Cardenas where the meeting was held. I saw Edgar Honasan, Bibi Trillanes, Lt. Monsterio.mpo, Lt. Williams, Long Lepag, 1Lt Ramos, 1Lt Ramirez, Ling Pascua. There were around 15-20 of us. All the active officers present are from classes ranging from '85 to '98.

"We first had our dinner before the formal meeting/ritual started. After everybody was done eating, everybody was told to find a chair to sit around the long table. It was Lt. Williams who opened the program. We first introduced ourselves by code names. Gringo gave his code name as 'Boys.' Then we recited our oath and program. The next part of the ritual/program was the writing of an alliance 'K' on our left inner arm using the 'razor' knife. Gringo explained the use of the 'razor' knife, shortened sessions and then demonstrated the writing. When he was about to demonstrate. Tortugas tried to stop him and said 'Ging ang ka na siguro inaapagod, sinlwa pa yang sugat mo...' However, he replied in the negative, and continued to demonstrate. When Gringo lifted his arm, I saw several marks and looked some scars still fresh.

"Only two knives were used which was sterilized by alcohol. The knife was passed around a long table where we were sitting. Those who don't have the knife cut it themselves. The cut is not very strong. We were told to sign for your name in the oath through thumb marking and likewise placing the blood in the ring. That ended the ritual. Gringo gave a parting message after the ritual. He said 'This is a worthwhile project. Pag-ibayohin natin ang pag-recruit upang dumami ang mga tauhan. I would rather spend my path hazard for you people na may inaapagdang kaapapa-ya sa buong kapa kung yun ang mga pasya ang pasya ng bawat isa." Before we parted, we were given five instructions regarding the use of cell phones, other 'operational' procedures to keep the meeting to ourselves..."

Across the NATION

'Jueteng' gets stronger in C. Luzon

"JUETENG" FEVER IS SWEEPING a large part of Luzon and the underworld lottery that authorities said had been checked has never been stronger.

The natures of its operators remain the same, based on interviews with sources and documents furnished the bureau.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a staunch anti-jueteng crusader, would neither confirm nor deny if the names being linked to jueteng operations in Pangasinan were the ones behind the illegal numbers game.

While he admitted having heard of these "former being members many times over," Cruz said he would rather not be specific about the identities of these people.

"I would like to assist you in your inquiry 'to determine who these 'lords' are and who their protectors are."

Supt. Noli Taliño, deputy director for operations of the Pangasinan police, said he had also heard of the names "Clyde" and "Lito" as the ones supposedly operating jueteng in the province.

A police report showed that the provincial police's 16-raids from January to July 10 this year led to 27 arrests.

At least 16 cases were filed in court while P12,950 in bet money was recovered.

Yesterday, being illegitimate, cannot be promoted if there are no protectors of those operating and funding it. Operation and protection always come in pair. If you remove one, the other will not exist. This is true for other illegitimate activities like drugs, prostitution and the like," Cruz said.

Cruz, national chair of the Kristo ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, said he was aware that jueteng had returned in most towns in his archdiocese.

Cagayan Valley

In Cagayan Valley, jueteng continued in four provinces despite the regular arrests, strengthening of Scan Hunting the supposed connivance of some government officials and the police.

Police said bet collection was either done clandestinely or save for the government-sanctioned 2-2 lottery.

Cagayan Rep. Rhoda Tuzon said the proliferation of illegal gambling operations could be a "partnership" between elective local officials and the police.

"If labo law to (angas. If local officials would say no, and the police would likewise say no, jueteng can never survive," he said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

Manila confirmed reports that a certain Jimmy Soriano has been allegedly operating the illegal numbers games in at least two districts in Cagayan.

Cagayan Gov. Edgar Lara, however, denied reports that an organized form of jueteng, or one that usually had the blessing of government officials, operated in his province.

"But I cannot say with all certainty that there would be no sporadic and unorganized, probably guerilla jueteng operations in a few parts of Cagayan," he said.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca said she ordered the hard-nose police among local officials in the fight against jueteng.

"I have already asked the help of all the

jueteng, being illegitimate, cannot be promoted if there are no protectors of those operating and funding it'

lords in the Philippine National Police [Interior] (PNP), even up to [Local Government] Secretary [Ronaldo] Puno, but to no avail. I just hope I would not be constrained to go to the level of the President again," she said.

Senior Supt. Jude Sacdan, acting Isabela police director, said the police have adopted a relentless campaign against jueteng in the province.

He identified a certain Jun Ramirez as the alleged financier of guerilla-type jueteng operations in various town and cities of Isabela.

Spill-over

In Nueva Vizcaya, Gov. Lubo Cuaresma said the nine dismissed that despite her order to the police to stop jueteng, bet collections continued.

"It seems the police cannot stop it. Instead of going after the cobradores, they goes are unaffected that seems among [her]," she said.

Quirino Gov. Dodoy Siaotong Manuel the "spill-over" operations of jueteng in a number of towns in Isabela and in Santiago City for the reported bet collection in several towns in his province.

"These bet collectors come from [the towns of] Cordon and San Agustin and Santiago City [in Isabela], where drawn are reportedly being held three times a day," he said.

He said he did not know the supposed financiers of jueteng in his province.

"They conduct guerrilla collections, and run to the [provincial] border once they are chased. They are wily," Bacani said.

Central Luzon

Only "sporadic" jueteng operations have been monitored in Central Luzon since February, a top police official said.

This was why police have no list yet of financiers who are known to have operated the illegal numbers game, said Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, regional police director.

Rafanan said only Subic Bonus of Tarlac is believed to have grist back in the trade.

The names of 14 others, who landed in the police list that the bureau obtained a few weeks before the game was "totally stopped" on May 4, 2005, have not been monitored.

Any-one sources among the police and residents have reported a completely different situation.

Suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Boy" Pineda is said to be back into the legal Small Town Lottery operations and jueteng in Angeles City, Tarlac and Pampanga.

A close relative of Pineda said the latter has turned himself in his hometown. The name of Pineda is scrapped in papelito or jueteng bet sheets in the City of San Fernando, though.

In Zambales, reports said Ayong Maliksi started jueteng operations there in March.

Senior Supt. Arnulfo Salbong, provincial police director, said jueteng had relocated to the province, saying operators have learned to hide this illegal numbers game in shadows.

Salbong said they have arrested several bet collectors, mostly in Subic town and nearby Olongapo City.

"Jueteng operators will temporarily cease up during a crackdown. But they have never really stopped, they go on hiding," he said.

Senior Supt. Angelito Pena, Olongapo City police director, said guerilla-type jueteng operations in the city are the PCSO's 42-3 lottery as others.

Senior Supt. Berberto Salud, former chief of the regional anti-illegal gambling task force, said he has no information on the reported operations of a certain Jerry in Bataan.

STL and jueteng

Rafanan said it had been difficult for policemen to arrest suspected jueteng collectors because in many cases, they turned out to be STL collectors.

He said on a weekly basis, provincial and city police directors get directives to "pinpoint, locate and neutralize" those behind any form of illegal gambling.

Field reports said that collectors submit bets for jueteng than for STL. They also use jueteng paraphernalia, instead of STL cards.

Reports from Yolanda Ivola-Fuertes, Melvin Gascon and Jun Mann Abres, Phil Northern Luzon Bureau, and Fonzie Ovejas, Carmela Reyes and Allan Macatuno, Phil Central Luzon Desk

Townsfolk say illegal mining killing farms

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—RESIDENTS OF SOUTH, Palawan have complained of the environmental operations of illegal large scale mining companies in their area, which they blame for the devastation of their environment and their once-lucrative production.

Through the newly formed multi-sector environment group, Kilusang Lobos sa Mina sa Sawa (KLMS), they denounced the government's inaction on illegal mining operations, particularly that of Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC).

The 10,000-odd farmers had been constantly complaining of the low yield of their farms ever since PGMC started mining operations in the area.

Eric Bejemundo, one of the complaining farmers, said his lowland farms with an area of 1.2 hectares in Barangay San Isidro, Narra, only produces 47 cavans of palay now, much lower than the average yield of 200 cavans in the previous years prior to PGMC's mining activities.

The said 70 persons, or 37.1 cavans of palay, were lost due to "lateral siltation" brought about by PGMC's mining operations.

Laterite is a soil layer rich in iron oxide and sometimes aluminum, which forms in tropical and subtropical regions where the climate is humid.

When consumed, laterite forms nodules as land in concrete that tend to "rot up" or suppress the host soil. Apolito P. Rosario, Phil Star/Inter-Local Bureau

SUSPECTED JUETENG LORDS

AS OF THE EVENING Luzon police's CIU: Three people were tagged as the biggest operators of "jueteng" in the region prior to its May 4, 2005 stoppage. Sources in jueteng circles say they still run the underworld lottery:

Central Luzon
Bulacan: Dong Pineda
Pampanga: Tony Santos, Bong Pineda, Lito Pineda, Mayor Lemuel Bautista, Dad, Edison, Abel and Nonoy Cruz, Otto Bathan, Jo-Jo Valentin, Fredo Gamot, Freddie Tuffanci, Abel Navarro, Allan Pineda
Pangasinan: Bong Pineda (ST), Nonoy, Otto Bathan, Fernando Cruz, Elvie Mallari, Jesse Macaraeg, Sanchez Calong
Nueva Ecija: Bong Pineda, Alex Rivera and Agustin Dizon, Mario de la Peña, Atlas Fernando, Wilson Jojo, Fernando Cruz, Benong Manuel, Alex Franklin, Evan Nagano, Lito Matias, Otto Cruz, Roland Labrador, Bimbo Jacob
Tarlac: Subic Bonus, Mac Pineda
Zambales: Jose "Ayong" Maliksi
Angeles City: Mario Garcia

Olongapo City: Augustin "Japing" Litan, Atlas Cube Pringo

Bicol
Camarines Norte: Dante del Monte
Camarines Sur: Nestor Pestaño
Albay: Tony Bing
Sorsogon: Leonor Lim

Southern Tagalog
Cavite: Boni Tiamzon
Batangas: Charing Magbalosa (ST) head)

Cagayan Valley
Cagayan/Isabela: Danny Soriano
Isabela: Mike Sosa

Ilocos
La Union/Abra: Ronald Singson
Pangasinan: Dale
Benguet/Ilocos Sur: Montano

Source: Philippine National Police

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : July 1, 2006
Loan No. : CN-1700
Contract No. : Spec(s) 7.07-1a-0070

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has received a loan from the People's Republic of China through the Export-Import Bank of China (Exim Bank) in the amount of Eight Billion Seven Hundred Million Yuan (¥8,700,000,000) to cover the cost of the Leyte-Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project and it is intended that part of this proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supervision, Factory Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, for Associated Control & Protection For Transmission Substation including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Switchyards under Leyte Transmission Upgrading Project.

Plant and equipment to be supplied under this contract shall have their origin from eligible source country of Leyte-Luzon is China (mainly from), Germany, Belgium, Finland, France, Netherlands, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

2. The National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) acknowledging the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, for Associated Control & Protection For Transmission Substation including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Switchyards under Leyte Transmission Upgrading Project-1

3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the **Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department**, Quezon Avenue corner Elliptical Road, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No. 981-2222 loc. 2271 to 2277, 981-2300 loc. 4111,2112.

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting July 7, 2006 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00)**.

5. A two envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2) sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and the other containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not responsive to the requirements will be rejected. Price proposals of qualified bidders with technically responsive technical proposals will then be opened. Subsequently, price proposals which exceed the budget for the contract will be rejected. Price proposals of bidders not complying with the bidding procedures will also be rejected. Price proposals of responsive price proposals which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussions or changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposals and the supplementary price proposals are opened simultaneously in public.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

Two Hundred Fifty Thousand US Dollars (US$ 250,000.00)

The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.
The bid security should be valid for **October 31, 2006**.

7. The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **September 1, 2006** at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.

8. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

9. The price proposals will be opened at the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date set in the advices to be advised by the Contractor after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

10. The validity of bids shall be for the period of **120 calendar days**.

11. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without giving any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

12. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. NICOLAS
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

Home Guaranty Corporation

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation located at the Barangay Bagumbayan, Taguig, Metro Manila are offered for sale:

FROM NO.	TCT NO.	BLOCK	LOT	AREA (SQM)	SELLING PRICE	LOCATION

Rights group leader shot dead in Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY—ANOTHER leader of a left-wing organization was shot dead Wednesday afternoon in Barangay San Antonio, Casiguran town, some 25 km from the city.

Police identified the victim as Emilio Hagonojos, a leader of the Sorsogon Ang mga Dating Lingkod ng Diyos sa Demokrasya at Amnestiya Dahil sa mga Gawaing Politikal (Sorsogon Ex-Servicemen Association for Democracy and Amnesty for Political Activities).

Investigators said the 63-year-old victim had just come from the public market on a motorcycle at around 2:30 p.m. when a lone gunman approached him and shot him in the head.

The two were on their way home in Barangay Tigbao when a masked man suddenly emerged from behind a tree and fired at Hagonojos, hitting him in the head and body.

Hagonojos died on the spot.

His daughter was spared but was still in a state of shock, police officers said.

The investigators could not establish the identity of the suspect as they were wearing bonnets when they ambushed Hagonojos.

Police said they would try to talk to the daughter once she had already recovered from trauma.

An investigator, however, claimed that the incident was to be related to the political involvement of the victims' relatives, the Bolantes, who are known critics of the Arroyo administration.

Dominico Hagonojos, son of the victim, told the reporters that his father had no known enemy in their town and had never been involved in any security.

"Since his retirement as a public school teacher he had devoted his time to farming," he said.

He appealed to the authorities to look deeply into the killing of his father.

Bolantes said they were verifying reports that the motorcycle of his father, which was taken by the assailants, was seen near a detachment in nearby Barangay Gusa.

Human rights group Karapatan condemned the killing, saying Hagonojos was the 20th victim of state-sponsored violence in the province.

Lt. Col. Benigno Antonio, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Headfirst, which has jurisdiction over Sorsogon, denied the military had a hand in the rash of killings in the province.

Gov. Raul Lee called the mayors, the provincial director of the Philippine National Police and Antonio to a meeting to discuss the peace and order situation in the province. Bobby Q. Lobrido, PHILSTAR/INQ Sorsogon Bureau

SIGHT
A tree appears to be lay in crossarms on a mountain in Jordan, Guimaras. It has become one of the attractions for tourism in the province.

Manila Water

Temporary water interruption in portions of Quezon City, Cainta and Taytay needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and fine-tuning the network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply to portions of Quezon City, Cainta and Taytay starting 10:00 p.m., Saturday, July 22, 2006, up to 4:00 a.m., Sunday, July 23, due to the valve replacement in Quezon City and interconnection of transmission along Ortigas Extension near Bapi Bridge in Cainta. The following areas will be affected: Aghasni Road, Quezon City; Brgy. San Juan, Cainta and Brgys. San Isidro, Dolores, Sto. Domingo and Sta. Ana, all in Taytay.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

We don't just lay pipes, we improve lives.

Woman peasant leader fights for life after Isabela attack

ECHAGUE, ISABELA—A LEADER OF A FARMERS' group and Bayan Muna official here is fighting for her life after two motorcycle-riding gunmen shot her thrice yesterday in front of the Isabela State University-Echague campus in Barangay San Fabian, police said.

Madonna Castillo, 32, secretary general of the nongovernment Isabela and Dinggayan Dagiti Mannalon ti Isabela-Echague municipal chapter, is the fourth militant leader shot in Isabela this year.

Castillo, also secretary general of Bayan Muna in Isabela, was about to attend her classes at the ISU when the two men attacked her at 7 a.m.

She took three bullets in the abdomen and thighs while her companion, Marlexis Valdez, was unhurt, police said.

Senior Supt. Jude Sunio, Isabela police director, said a .45-cal. pistol was used in the attack.

Castillo was transferred from Messenger Hospital here to the Ilocandia City Jr. Memorial Hospital in Dagupan town for operation.

Militant groups have supported the military to be involved in the shooting.

Castillo had condemned the Army's 502nd Brigade for alleged human rights abuses and graft, among other things.

On May 10 this year, Elena Mendiola, Bayan Muna-Cagayan Valley vice chair, and her live-in partner Ricardo Ridaneta, Bayan Muna town coordinator, were killed by armed men in Barangay Dark Rice here.

A month later, Soiled Marcos Sangit, Bayan Muna-Balzigan vice chair, was killed by gunmen in Barangay Quezon in San Isidro town.

Leftist groups blamed May Gen. Jovito Palparan for the killings.

The Nilusong Magkakaisa ng Pilipinas vowed to block the plan of Palparan to extend his stint in the military or take any government position after his mandatory retirement on Sept. 11.

"He wants to rationalize his murder spree and kill all those who oppose Gloria [President Macapagal-Arroyo]," NMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said in a statement here yesterday.

Ramos was referring to the trail of killings, abductions and other human rights atrocities attributed by leftist groups to Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Activists have come to call him "butcher" for nearly 300 killings and attacks during his assignment since 1985 as commander of the 24th Infantry Battalion in Central Luzon, 8th ID in Samar and Leyte, 304th Infantry Brigade in Mindoro and Romblon, and of late, 7th ID in Central Luzon.

"Under his watch, hundreds have already been killed... we will not allow it that he would do the same to the whole country," Ramos said, adding that the general has targeted unarmed activists and civilians rather than New People's Army rebels. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PHILSTAR/INQ with Lopez Barayo and Ernesto Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Bataan sect head shot dead; cops eye family feud

HERMOSA, BATAAN—A LEADER OF A SECT in the province was shot dead on Thursday night while he watched TV in his bedroom in Barangay Sacrifice Valley here, police said.

Police identified the founder as Jose Reyjanin Tersol, 63, administrator and leader of Church of the Most Holy Trinity sect.

Police said a lone gunman climbed the grilled window of the room and shot Tersol, who was watching TV. His wife, Cora, who was also in the room, was not hurt.

The victim was the elder brother of John Florentine Tersol, founding bishop of a religious sect, Apostolic Catholic Church, based in Quezon City.

Investigators said they were looking into personal grudge as motive of the killing.

Residents said a feud among the Tersol siblings erupted when their brother, known as Jerson Virginia Lemuran Tersol, died in May 2005.

Since then, the eight Tersol siblings separated ways and began to exchange accusations and harbor personal grudges. This prompted John Florentine to establish the Apostolic Catholic Church.

Residents in the 25-hectare Sacrifice Valley were relieved by the feud. Some of them joined the Apostolic Catholic Church of John Tersol while others stayed with Jose Benjamin.

The victim's wife, who is a village official here, said her husband had received death threats but had ignored them. *Greg Bañaclan, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Truck carrying farmers rolls off road; 15 die

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

SUMAGUETE CITY—FIFTEEN farmers were killed early yesterday and 22 others were injured in La Libertad, Negros Oriental when a truck they hitched a ride in overturned on a steep road in Barangay Gadbuta, about 13 km from the highway.

The 10-wheel truck, owned by the municipal government of La Libertad town (about 100 km from Dumaguete City), was taking the farmers to the town with their purchase for market day, according to La Libertad Mayor Amin Ep Lumbatan Jr.

Lumbatan Jr., quoting municipal personnel who went to the site to help in the rescue operation, said most of the 15 fatalities died at the accident site.

The truck driver, whom passengers identified as Bartolome Mesay, survived the accident. Some of the survivors believed Mesay lost control of the truck because of faulty brakes.

"We were going very fast," recalled passenger Cecil Gabarera, 22, a resident of Barangay Cinco-mamdig, who was among the injured passengers being treated at a hospital here.

"So we were going downhill, the truck zoomed in fast to the right and soon, the truck was upside down, throwing most of the passengers in a grassy lot," Gabarera said.

She said she lost consciousness. "When I woke up, I was lying among the dead," she said in an interview at the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NORPH).

She escaped with a minor head wound but her mother, Editha, 43, was admitted for treatment of head wounds and other injuries.

Tomas Dejesus, the driver of another municipal-owned truck, which was traveling a few meters ahead of the ill-fated vehicle, told the Inquirer that he believed faulty brakes caused the accident.

Wonder had earlier told me that he felt his brakes were not working properly so I advised him to just take it easy. But he appeared to be traveling too fast behind me," Dejesus said.

He said when he looked back, he saw Bardo's truck scrape an electric post, producing a spark. That was when the truck overturned.

Dejesus said that when they stopped to bring the victims to the hospital, he counted nine dead at the scene. Three others died on the way to the district hospital in nearby Guihulngan town.

Lumbatan Jr. later confirmed that 15 were killed in the accident while 22 were injured. The mayor, who learned of the news while in Dumaguete City rushed to La Libertad and now Vice Mayor Gualberto Lapuras and the town's personnel to Barangay Gadbuta to investigate and help the victims.

"At this point, we still cannot determine exactly what caused the accident. There are many possibilities. For one, the rains may have made the road slippery, the vehicle may have malfunctioned or the driver may have fallen asleep as it was very early in the morning," she said in a telephone interview.

Nine of the victims who suffered fractures were rushed to the NORPH while the other injured farmers were being treated at the Guihulngan District Hospital. Their names were not immediately available.

BELOW CRIMES
A Lumadnon woman who lender her worldly possessions—a vegetable basket filled with what many would consider trash—at the post office of Jaro District in Iloilo City.

12 NPA rebs slain in clashes, says Army

CEBU CITY—AT LEAST 12 NPA (New People's Army) rebels have been killed in a series of clashes since July 13 in Columbio areas in Sultan Kudarat and the towns of Maasim and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur, the military said.

Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, 601st Army Brigade commander, said four government soldiers were wounded in the encounters.

Cayton, who was supervising the military offensive from the tactical command post of the 601st Army Brigade in Adtang, Matanao, said the soldiers launched the offensive after NPA rebels attacked a military detachment in the area.

Government soldiers repulsed the guerrillas after a two-hour gunfight.

Cayton said he sent soldiers from the 10th, 27th and 25th Infantry Battalions and the 1st Civilian Reconnaissance Company on July 13 to scour the hinterlands of Columbio, Matanao and Kiblawan, areas known as rebel strongholds.

After three days of operation, the government troopers figured in two successive encounters with 40 communist rebels under Carolino Sarabia alias Ayan, the alleged secretary of the NPA's Far South Mindanao Region Committee.

Another armed encounter occurred on July 17 between soldiers of the 27th IB and about 40 NPA rebels under commander Timo of Guerrilla Front Committee 74 in Sitio Alpa, Abuan in Kiblawan. Agaton P. Zenith, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Naia tax-exempt, SC rules

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY struck down the bid of the Arroyo government to collect P624.5 million in taxes from the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), saying that all the buildings and properties of Miaa 1, Miaa 2 and the Manila Domestic Airport were government property and therefore tax-exempt.

"Properties of public dominion, being for public use, are not subject to levy, encumbrance or disposition through public or private sale. Any encumbrance, levy on execution or auction sale of any property of public dominion is void for being contrary to public policy," the court said in an en banc decision.

The decision, penned by Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, declared void the P624.5 tax assessment issued by the Arroyo government for the years 1992 to 2001.

The high court also nullified the auction sale of the airport lands and buildings by the Arroyo government on Feb. 7, 2003.

The Supreme Court in effect reversed a Court of Appeals decision of Oct. 5, 2004 denying a Miaa petition to prevent the Paredes government from imposing real estate taxes on, levying against, and auctioning the public and the property in question.

"There is no point in a national and local government's taxing each other unless a basic principle empowering public revenues each transfer of public funds from one government pocket to another," the high tribunal said.

"There is also no reason for local government to tax national government instrumentalities for rendering essential public services to inhabitants of local government," it added.

The SC threw out the argument of the Arroyo government that the Miaa cannot claim that the airport lands and buildings were exempt from real estate taxes since Section 193 of the Local Government Code had withdrawn the tax-exempt privileges of government-owned and -controlled corporations.

"There is no dispute that a government-owned or -controlled corporation is not exempt from real estate tax. However, Miaa is not a government-owned or -controlled corporation," the high court said.

PHIVOLCS lay sights a spectacular show of lava flow. AFP/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Ash clouds send Mayon folk to panic

By Sylvie Arguillas
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI, DOMINGO, ASHES—MUSHROOM-shaped ash clouds which winds sent northeast around 11:30 a.m. yesterday caused residents of the villages of Libog and San Isidro here to panic and forced the voluntary evacuation of around 100 residents.

Romeo Gitera, Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council action officer, said the residents were fled taken to the town's gymnasium but the local government was planning to send them back home as the alert level had not been raised from 3.

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) senior science research specialist Eduardo Laguerta said what happened was a "collapse-type" of pyroclastic flow which caused the ash clouds.

He said lava "chunks" that had cooled and solidified on the lead broken off after rain-to-ra flowed from Mayon's crater. This generated the ash clouds (whose) then successively heading down an explosion.

"It was not yet the major blast. The ash clouds did not come from the crater but from the lava fragments that collapsed downslope," Laguerta said.

No evacuation yet

Aden Nuñez of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council said operations division said no evacuation was ordered since the alert level remained at 3 of the 5-level warning system.

He said, however, that classes were suspended in Libog and San Isidro because of the ashfall.

The 2,474-meter Mt. Mayon, meanwhile, continued to spew lava.

Tremor episodes increased to 404 in the past 24 hours from 256, while Phivolcs said could be associated with increasing lava extrusion, rockfalls and disturbing lava fragments occurring within the 6-km permanent danger zone.

Sulfur dioxide emissions, which Laguerta said was one of the indicators of magma coming to the surface, were relatively higher yesterday than the normal level of 1,661tons per day.

Former Radio Technician, 55, said he was working in his field on the volcano's south-eastern slope when he heard a shout and saw someone point to a cloud of ash. The Associated Press reported.

"When I saw the cloud, I got scared and came down," he said.

Another farmer, Lucito Sydoya, also rushed down carrying a sack of vegetables and heading for his motorbike.

"I was scared because I was about a kilometer away," he said.

Schoolteacher Jesus Bera said parents rushed to the Malinao Elementary School to get their children.

"I could not do anything, so I just drummed my chest," she said.

Other residents packed their bags and kitchen utensils and scurried out the roadside or inside their homes for village officials' signal to evacuate. With AFP reports

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
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LEARNING CAN BE FUN
A boy spends a busy afternoon playing on top of "books," ways seriously, at the playground of the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Unleaded gas spills into Pasig City canals

By Blanche S. Rivera and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AN OIL SPILL EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING released unleaded gasoline into Pasig's canals, a few meters away from the biggest and busiest public market in the city.

City officials ordered an immediate cleanup to prevent a fire.

The gas station is near the Metro ng Pasig Public Market.

Some 300 liters of unleaded gas were released after the storage tank of the Iloa Oil refueling station on Market Avenue, Pillar in Pasig City overflowed while a tanker was transferring fuel.

Operations at the refueling station were suspended by the city government until the cleanup was completed.

The incident occurred only four days after an oil spill at the Pandacan fuel depot.

"The Iloa Oil storage tank, with a capacity of 7,000 liters, was not big enough to accommodate the fuel that was being transferred," the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) said yesterday in its initial report.

Traveler

The storage tank reportedly was already filled when the tanker tried to transfer its load of 8,000 liters, thus causing the spill.

PO1 Antonio Barbosa said the driver quickly shut down the valves, but more than 500 liters of unleaded gasoline had already spilled from the container.

The Pasig City Bureau of Fire and Safety ordered the immediate cleanup of the drainage canals.

Around 200 liters of gasoline mixed with water had been recovered so far by the Iloa Oil cleanup crew.

"The immediate concern is to recover the remaining spilled fuel and prevent it from further flowing into the canals," the LLDA said.

The LLDA, which issues environmental permits for development projects in Metro Manila, said Iloa Oil did not have an LLDA clearance required for operating the refueling station.

In view of this, the LLDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a notice of violation to the gas station.

Police find another suspected shabu lab in Parañaque City

Owner had no PDEA clearance to store chemicals

By Jocelyn C. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE POLICE HAVE stumbled into another suspected illegal drugs facility less than after a raid on a suspected shabu warehouse in the city.

Almost 30 gallons of sulfuric acid and methanol were found between noon yesterday inside the Jam Seafoods Inc. on 7974 Santan Road in Bahay Toro subdivision, Barangay Moore, according to city police chief Supt. Ronald Ilarde.

The police and the city's Business Permit and Licensing Office began inspecting compounds and depots in the city after chemicals that could produce "millions of pesos worth" of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu were found Sunday evening in a crushed motorboat in Moonga Compound, Barangay Tambo.

The Jam Seafoods Inc., a team reporter, was registered but its owner, Ismael Garcia, did not have any clearance from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for storing the chemicals in the warehouse, Ilarde said.

The police official said that since the chemicals were main components in the manufacture of shabu, possession of the substances without a PDEA clearance was a violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Garcia told police that the chemicals were used to preserve bangus or milk fish. But the police discovered a suspected "mini laboratory," about 36 square meters in size, behind the company's office near a creek where a distillery was allegedly set up.

Ilarde, two tubes and a burner were found inside the small structure, Ilarde said. "The owner could be charged with illegal possession of the chemicals," the police official added, if there was sufficient evidence to pin him down.

The city government had announced early this week it would keep an eye on compounds, warehouses, forwarding companies and stockrooms, apart from subdivisions, to prevent the entry of illegal drugs.

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Restaurant manager killed before reaching his home

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE PUZZLED OVER THE killing of a restaurant manager who was shot five times before he got to his home in Mandaluyong City early yesterday.

Pilipino Star Ngayon, 31, was traveling in front of his house in Barangay Buenavista about 4:30 a.m. when he accidentally bumped a taxicab parked by Jovenal Cruz, 39, entering door to door, Romero Cruz, 39, entering door to door, blood all over his body.

"Nakaupo siya sa manibela ng taxi ng biktima ng aking kapatid nang pinagbabaril ang biktima," Romero quoted Cruz as saying in Filipino.

But Romero said he did not see anyone running after Cruz, after police later learned had worked as manager for Enid's Restaurant at the Ilocandia Mall in Makati City.

Gunshots

Cruz's wife told the police she was inside their house on Simeon Cruz Street waiting for her husband to come home.

She heard four shots the door of his car, a red Toyota Corolla, that he had apparently parked outside their house when she suddenly heard gunshots.

Outside, she saw her husband in the middle of the road. He was already bleeding, she said.

Police said Cruz sought help from his friend Gil Alvarado, whose house was just a few meters away.

By the time Cruz' wife got near him, the victim had already fallen on the pavement in front of Alvarado's house.

She was brought Cruz to the Valle Precious Medical Center, but he died while undergoing treatment.

Police are looking at robbery as motive for the shooting. The robbers could have perished when he noticed and shot him with a 9 mm handgun, based on the recovered slugs and spent shells, police said.

Puzzle

But what they found puzzling was Cruz's car was still parked in the alley near his house. Only the ignition key was missing.

Mandaluyong City Police chief Supt. Edison Misngayo said it was also possible the robbers had waited for the victim in order to kill him.

"We are looking at all possible angles," Misngayo said.

DID YOU KNOW

MALATE Church

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Parents sue kid's teacher

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A GRADE II PUPIL OF EULOGIO ELEMENTARY School died Wednesday five days after her teacher allegedly banged her head against the classroom's pillars and concrete.

Initial investigation found that eight-year-old Ma. Jocelyn Palma was brought to the Dagupan Hospital two days after she was observed to have vomiting spells.

Doctors said Palma died of internal hemorrhage.

In his report, Supt. Jose Mario Espino, city police chief, said the Esperanza Baldivino, 62, allegedly banged the girl's heads in exasperation because they were naughty and stubborn.

Baldivino, who is retiring in September, voluntarily surrendered yesterday morning to Barangay Chief Rafael Sevilla, Dumalinao police superintendent Dr. Ri Sol, and school principal Dr. Monalisa Antonillo, according to Tet Valenzuela, public information officer here.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi ordered a thorough investigation of the incident and said appropriate administrative and criminal charges would be filed against Baldivino if there was sufficient evidence against her.

Palma's body was brought to the Eastern Funeral Homes in Mabitac for an autopsy.

The girl's parents have filed a case for cruel, but malpractice resulting in homicide against the teacher. Lou Morla, a Grade II student of the Mangan Elementary School in Pagsig City died a week after her teacher allegedly buried her to swallow pencil shavings.

MetroBriefs

Just on leave or relieved?

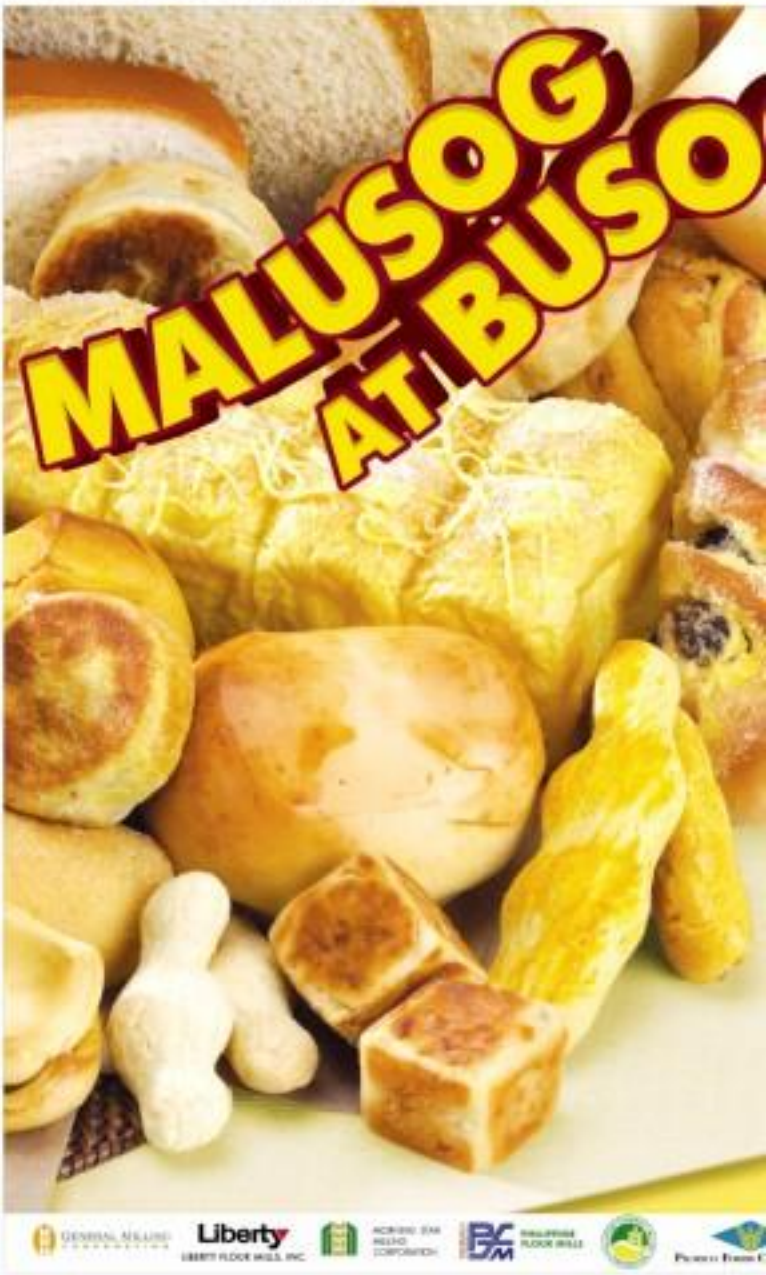
WHAT really happened to Makilingdon chief Dexter Ibal, Marietta Dalmen? For a disappointed Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, his action chief was replaced because of politics, for reasons Lagumbay, he simply took a break. Binay should silence's alleged relief spread like wildfire yesterday morning, a surprise that City Hall found by the Makati Police Station's action to send Ibal on his way against Richard's Binay's staunch political rival. Binay was promoted Wednesday morning by spokesman of the Makati Police Station Section on orders of Makati court which found the former city official guilty of grafting Obando re-murder against the mayor in a case traced back to September 1990. "The police chief is a victim of the kind of vendetta politics that Makassalang plays. We know that the relief came after Dr. Binay pushed a case against Makassalang," said Binay in a statement yesterday. But newly installed SPO3 chief Dexter Ibal, Ricardo Padilla said Galeria just took an emergency leave and insisted that he relieved the police chief resigned. Makati police officer-on-charge Supt. Felipe Rosales Jr. said he received an order to take over Galeria's duties yesterday afternoon. (Vera B. Bautista)

Down with streamers

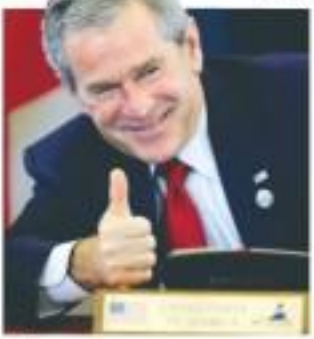
STREAMERS with "Happy Fiesta" greetings still invisibly months after the festivity or banners congratulating new graduates in the middle of December may soon be a thing of the past in Santiago City. A proposed ordinance has been filed in the City Council to ban or limit the use of big signage paper or bulletboards to hang these posters, streamers and banners that have several greetings or announcements only month after the occasions had passed. According to the proponent Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP) member Dr. Ed Lagman Jr. and Jorge Bustos Jr., such measure is to prevent visual pollution and to avoid from the time they were first displayed to their worn-out state. (LJ Uy)

Help Jury

THE ARREST of 4-year-old Jury Cachapuz of #72 Rizalito St., Sto. Niño, Rodriguez, Rizal needs your help. The child was misdiagnosed with Nasopharyngeal carcinoma, needs an operation soon. Her medical bills could be nearly over P4,500 today. Those who would like to help Jury can call Manuelito Soriano at 0920-4025561.



Bush vetoes stem cell research



AUSH

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT BUSH ON Wednesday rejected legislation to expand federally supported embryonic stem cell research, exercising his veto power for the first time.

By defying the Republican-controlled Congress, which had sent him legislation that would have overturned research restrictions he imposed five years ago, Bush reinserted himself forcefully into a moral, scientific and political debate in which Republicans increasingly flashing common ground with Democrats.

The president laid out his reasoning in a written message to the House of Representatives, then announced his decision in the East Room of the White House, surrounded by babies born through in vitro fertilization using so-called adopted embryos.

At the infants' feet in their parents' arms, Bush said the bill endorsed his principles on the sanctity of human life by encouraging the destruction of embryos left over from fertilization procedures.

"I felt like crossing this line would be a mistake, and once crossed we would find it almost impossible to turn back," Bush said. "Crossing the line would needlessly encourage a conflict between science and ethics that can only do damage to both, and to our nation as a whole."

Until Wednesday Bush was among just seven presidents who had never vetoed a piece of legislation. Nine vetoed only partial items; the other three were John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams.

Within hours of the final House screening, the House hurriedly took up a measure to override the veto, but the vote, 235-193, fell short of the two-thirds majority required. The vote put an end to the bill's prospects for the year, but not to the stem cell debate.

"This is not some savings issue; this is the soul of America," said Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., who sponsored the bill. Bush vetoed, "and this is a colossal mistake on the part of the president."

But beyond the principles involved, the White House had clearly calculated that it would have been more of a political mistake to sign the bill.

Social conservatives, the heart of Bush's base, had demanded that the president keep his promise to veto any measure that allowed the careful compromise he articulated on Aug. 9, 2001, restricting government-financed stem-cell research to existing colonies.

"This is a profound moral issue," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., after the White House ceremony. "The issue is whether or not it is morally right to use the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans who find this research morally objectionable."

Yet the ground is shifting in the debate, and even House conceded that opponents of the research were "losing the argument with the American people."

The bill Bush vetoed would have allowed taxpayer-financed research on lines derived from embryos slated for destruction by fertility clinics.

AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Aid efforts cranked up after Indonesia tsunami

PANGANDARAN, INDONESIA—Aid efforts cranked into higher gear to assist Indonesian tsunami survivors Thursday, a day after another tsunami alert triggered panic over the main island of Java. Search and rescue helicopters hovered along the battered coast at this small resort town, which bore the brunt of fury unleashed by Monday afternoon's tsunami along a 250-km stretch of south coastline. Indonesia's National Disaster Management Coordinating Agency said at least 328 have been confirmed as the disaster, with 214 left missing. More than 16,500 have been displaced, it said. Nervous tempers frayed after panicked residents rushed to higher ground on Wednesday, when rumors warned of another impending wall of water. Separately, Indonesian residents on Java's western coast and Sumatra's south coast were told to be on alert Wednesday morning after a 6.2-magnitude quake struck under the Sunda Strait between the two islands.

AFP

Taiwan holds largest military exercise

ILAN, TAIWAN—Patriot missiles climbed across the night blue cluster sky and F-16s bombarded skies Thursday as Taiwan beat back a simulated Chinese invasion in the island's largest-ever military exercise.

The "Hankuang" or "Chinese Glory" maneuvers are meant to test Taiwan's ability to master its army, navy, air force and reserve regiments against the forces of its neighbor that considers China, just 180 km to the west, across the volatile Taiwan Strait. China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing remains committed to bringing the self-governing island back into its fold — possibly in just the sort of Pearl Harbor-style knock-out blow Taiwan fears that this year's Hankuang exercises simulated. The drills followed Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian's decision earlier this year to scrap a government body responsible for the island's eventual unification with the mainland.

AP

Hirohito shunned shrine over war criminals

TOKYO—Emperor Hirohito, in whose name Japanese soldiers fought in World War Two, stopped visiting a shrine for war dead because he was displeased that wartime leaders convicted as war criminals were honored there as war victims, a newspaper reported on Thursday, citing a memo by a former courtier. Japan's ties with China and South Korea have chilled since Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi took office in 2001 and began visiting Yasukuni Shrine, where World War Two leaders convicted as war criminals by an Allied tribunal are honored along with the nation's 2.5 million war dead. The shrine is seen by critics at home and abroad as a symbol of Japan's past militarism. Speculation is simmering that Koizumi — who says he goes to pray for peace — may pay his respects there this year on Aug. 15, the emotive anniversary of Japan's surrender in 1945.

Reuters

Sex during late pregnancy could aid delivery

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—Having sex late in pregnancy could help some women deliver without the need for artificial help, a Malaysian study finds. In a research report by Malaysian doctors, A study of 300 healthy, married Malaysian women indicated that those who have intercourse late in their pregnancies were more likely than women who didn't to go into labor at 37-42 weeks of pregnancy, said Dr. Tan Peng Cheong, an obstetrics and gynecology lecturer at the University of Malaya. A full-term pregnancy is 38-42 weeks. "We found that the women who had sex go into labor slightly earlier," Tan said. "Associations, many people have that sexual intercourse has an effect on premature labor."

AP

Heat wave hits Europe

LONDON—European governments scrambled to warn how to record high temperatures on Wednesday in a repeat of the catastrophic heatwave of 2003 that killed 15,000 people in France and 2,000 in Britain. In Britain, temperatures hit an all-time high for the month of July, reaching 36.3 degrees Celsius (97.34 Fahrenheit) south of London to edge out the previous record set in 1901. Germany's national meteorological service said July was on the way to being the hottest since records began in many parts of the country. In France, an 80-year-old man admitted to hospital and an 81-year-old woman found dead in her home were the first people believed to have died there because of the heat. Officials said nine people were believed to have died in Britain launched an emergency plan of extra visits to the elderly and vulnerable. British broadcasters dropped talks over temperatures would soar above 30C degrees. Forecasters put 37C as the only the second time — the first was in August 2003.

Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lutrene B. Queco

A LEBANESE woman shouts anti-Israeli slogans in front of a mosque in Beirut that was destroyed by Israeli warplanes July 20. —

DEADLIEST DAY OF CONFLICT

72 killed, 20 tons of bombs dropped in Lebanon

BEIRUT—ISRAELI TROOPS BATTLED LEBANESE GUERRILLAS and warplanes bombed a suspected Hezbollah bunker Thursday as Lebanon issued a desperate plea for international help after the bloodiest day of the conflict.

Concerns mounted over the humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations warning of an impending "chaotic exodus" as Israel's relentless campaign to crush the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah killed 72 people on Wednesday, the highest single-day death toll since the offensive was launched nine days ago.

Thousands of terrified foreigners, mostly Westerners, were being evacuated by sea from Beirut to the neighboring Mediterranean island of Cyprus, fleeing an offensive that has now killed 327 people in Lebanon and displaced an estimated half a million others.

As Israeli warplanes swung into action over south Beirut, dropping 20 tons of bombs on a suspected Hezbollah leadership bunker, ground troops were locked in fierce fighting with guerrillas after launching a new cross-border raid.

"There is intense fighting along the border inside Lebanese territory," said Shlomo Dror, spokesperson for the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Hezbollah claimed it had destroyed two tanks while Israeli television reported two soldiers had been injured.

Target for liquidation

Israel said 20 new planes had bombed what it believed to be a Hezbollah leadership bunker in the guerrilla group's southern stronghold but the militant group denied any of its members had been killed and said the building he was a mosque.

Israel has made no secret of its desire to "liquidate" Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah and has already launched air raids destroying his offices and residence during relentless nine-day campaign.

"The country has been torn to shreds. Can the international community stand by while such offensive continues by the state of Israel to infiltrate on us?" Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora told a gathering of foreign ambassadors.

"We want to support the government of Lebanon! Let me tell you ... no government can survive on the ruins of a nation," he said. "I hope you will not let us down. We the Lebanese want life. We have chosen life. We refuse exile."

In the latest Hezbollah attack, two Arab Israeli children were killed and 37 people wounded when a Katyusha rocket fired from Lebanon exploded in the northern town of Nazareth.

Another two Israeli soldiers were killed in border clashes Wednesday after ground troops were back into Lebanon to conduct "pinpoint" operations against Hezbollah. Ten Hezbollah militants died in the skirmish.

No ceasefire in sight

Twenty-nine Israelis, including 14 soldiers, have been killed since a Hezbollah attack in which two soldiers were captured, triggering the Israeli onslaught.

With still no sign of a ceasefire in sight, Israel vowed after a security Cabinet meeting that its "intensive war" against Hezbollah would go on as long as it deemed necessary.

International diplomatic efforts to end the bloodshed have yet to get off the ground, with Israel's chief ally the United States refusing to back calls for a ceasefire until Hezbollah halts its rocket attacks.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana were to meet in New York on Thursday with UN chief Kofi Annan, who has proposed the creation of an international force to restore calm.

Solana voiced the hope that the conflict could be over by the end of next week.

"We will work over very hard to see if we can have an end of hostilities and the beginning of something of a political nature before the end of next week," he told the BBC.

On Wednesday, Israel waged a massive blitz from air and sea against southern and eastern Lebanon, flattening houses, destroying roads and hitting a Beirut power plant.

Twenty-four people were killed and 26 wounded in a single village when residents said 10 homes were turned to rubble by shelling from Israeli gunboats and warplanes.

Eleven other civilians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a five-story building in the southern Lebanese village of Nabi Sheet, near the ancient Roman city of Baalbek.

Evacuation

Israeli helicopters also fired rockets on a commercial Ukrainian tanker in Beirut, the first direct strikes in the center of the capital, raising concerns about the evacuation operations under way in the nearby port.

Meanwhile Israel continued to take deadly offensive in the Gaza Strip, killing at least 13 people Wednesday, bringing to 96 the number of Palestinians dead since it launched an operation to retrieve a captive soldier and halt rocket attacks.

It also killed five others in a West Bank incursion into the city of Nablus.

Expressing alarm about the humanitarian situation in south Lebanon, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour said perpetrators in the conflict could be held to account for war crimes.

In Beirut, hundreds of foreigners were waiting to be evacuated by sea while more ships arrived in Cyprus, which lies just 160 kilometers to the west and is being used as the evacuation hub.

More than 1,000 people, mostly Americans, arrived on Cyprus from Beirut on a chartered cruise liner, with US diplomats seeking to help some 6,000 nationals exit Lebanon by Friday.

Britain is also hoping to evacuate about 3,000 of its nationals by the end of the week.

For many ordinary Lebanese there is little chance of such a means of flight with some 70 percent of the population of south Lebanon, which has borne the brunt of the Israeli operation, had their homes to find safer places. —AFP

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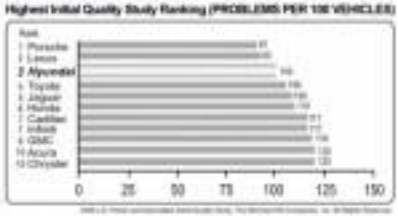

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Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres

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Eagles clip tough Falcons

Tiu to the rescue as Ateneo survives thriller; Tigers stun Tams

By Jaymico W. Papa

A ONE-YEAR HIATUS HARDLY affected his sweet-shooting form.

Returning guard Chris Tiu buried a three-pointer with 20.6 seconds remaining to lift the Ateneo Blue Eagles to a 73-72 decision over the Adamson Falcons in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Before Tiu's dunch triple, the Falcons had looked poised to finish their first victory over the Eagles in nine years. But Ben Bunn, a sensation until the closing seconds, turned the ball over on Adamson's final play.

The second miscue paved the way for the Eagles to secure their third straight win for the wild lead.

"It's nice to have him back," said Ateneo coach Norman Black of Tiu, who skipped last season to study for one year in Nice, France. "It gave us one more shooter since we lost Magnum [Rodriguez]. He came through with a big shot."

Doug Kramer, the Eagles' veteran big man, notched another double-double performance with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

It was the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, who pulled off an upset victory in the second game.

Sophomore Dylan Gladieu completed a three-point play in the last 9.6 seconds as the Tigers shocked the defending champion Far Eastern Tamaraws, 90-87.

The 6-foot-3 sophomore scored underneath from an assist by Jojo Uanell, who shot 25 points and shared top scoring honors with rookie Jerry Cruz.

Gladieu drew a foul from FEU's Jonas Villanueva, then sealed the bonus free throw to seal the Tigers' first win in two games.

Jeff Chan's game-tying triple thrusted out at the buzzer and the Tamaraws were down to their second straight loss.

"There were lapses in our defense that's why they were able to catch up, but the boys worked so hard in this game," said new UST coach Pido Jarencio.

The early scores:

First Game

ADAMSON (Cabahug 32, Bunn 18, Hapoldan 10, Gonzalez 7, Nayve, Orozco, Pantoja 0, Pelayo 0, Gonzaga 0, Sadio 0, Aguilar 0) Quarters: 23-15, 21-40, 51-61, 72-72

Second Game

ATENEO (Tiu 20, Kramer 14, Asperilla 7, Cuan 6, Cortez 1, Fernandez 6, Arellano 6, Cortez 2, Ildefonso 2, Tigan 2, Adriz 0)

FEU (Villanueva 19, Abiertas 16, Abella 12, Fernandez 11, Belasoni 11, Cortez 6, Sarmiento 1, Villareal 0, Abella 0, Reyes 0, un-Villanueva)

Quarters: 19-22, 37-41, 59-61, 87-90

ADAMSON'S Leo Cassaday steers clear of a diving Yao Ilocanos during their game yesterday (JOEL NAVAREZ)

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RP-Air21 quint routs Japan, clinches s'final berth

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Hong Kong	2	0
China	1	1
Malaysia	1	1
Uzbekistan	0	2
Group B		
RP-Air21	2	0
UAE	1	1
Japan	1	1
Singapore	0	2

HONG KONG—FLAUNTING ITS FIREPOWER for the second straight day, RP-Air21 blasted Japan's Fuguoshima City Steel Sharks, 116-83, for its second straight win in the FIBA Asia-Langley-Sanyo Hong Shoong Cup International to clinch a semifinal berth in the championship of the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Randall Tribal stood at the helm of the Filipinos' strong showing, wrapping for a game-high 20 points on an awesome 6-of-7 shooting from three-land nine-point arena.

Reunited de Ocampo, Mark Telan, Nico Canaleta and Leo Avenido also produced impressive numbers for the Filipinos.

De Ocampo added 19 points and eight rebounds, while Telan contributed 16 points on a solid 6-of-9 shooting.

Canaleta, the reigning PBA slam dunk champion, had 15 points, including a couple of breakaway dunks that sent the pro-dominant-ly-Filipino crowd in its feet.

The win evoked the 11-man 89-80/21 rotation, which the four reinforcers stonilland round berth.

The Filipinos also earned the right to compete in the inaugural Dr. Jose Yao Noe Cup, a four-nation, two-day tournament scheduled July 24-25, in nearby Shenzhen, just across the border of this explosive, spoiled Chinese region.

Next up for RP-Air21 is the Los Angeles-based Asian American Sports Club, which whipped Singapore, 80-56, in the other Group B encounter Wednesday night.

The winners of the RP-Air21 match will earn top spot in Group B and a possible semifinal match against CBA champion Weinenmay of China on Saturday.

The loser will meet defending champion Hong Kong, the only other delegation team in the rough, eight-nation tourney.

"With our lineup now, we can beat them (Chinese-Americans) and advance to the finals," said coach Bo Perasol of his charges who are being supported here by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and sponsored by Sanlagunas, Accel and Federal Tires.

Giants try to close it out again in Game 6 tonight

PURPOSEFUL? SIMPLY LOVES BROADCAST GAMES. IN CONTRAST, Red Bull favors a tight routine.

PBA a strong appetite for survival, the Bulls try to handle their fifth do-or-die game of the conference in Game 6 of their Grass Arena, the Brandy PBA Philippine Cup finals with the Giants tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

"If we keep the game close in the last two minutes, we will most likely win it," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, after the Bulls came back from 12 points down to halt the Giants, 100-92, in Game 5 Wednesday.

"They don't so well when they're in the lead. There's less pressure, less distractions when they're in that situation," added Guiao, whose Bulls moved within 3-2 of the Giants in the best-of-seven series.

After Cyrus Baguio fired the score at 90 with a triple and Rodney Williams and Lanny Tenorio went to work, the Giants sudden-ly got loose.

EUGENE Ngadu gets a rear touching welcome from Purefoods trainer Pareto Bernardo as he arrives to watch his teammates in Wednesday's Game 4 of the Finals at the Big Dome. Ngadu is still recovering from a spine injury as a result of a fall during the game against Red Bull last May 14.

PUREFOODS' James Yap tackles Red Bull's Carlos Cruz for possession in Game 5.

Yeng Guiao

Tenorio finished with 19 points, while Williams had 18 points and 15 rebounds.

Guiao, however, is not taking anything for granted.

"We've been in this situation before, and we've lost," said Guiao. "We've been in this situation before, and we've won. We've been in this situation before, and we've lost. We've been in this situation before, and we've won. We've been in this situation before, and we've lost. We've been in this situation before, and we've won. We've been in this situation before, and we've lost.

Team USA kicks off training camp

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—TEAM USA TOOK another step toward tuning its rotation to global basketball supremacy when the National team opened its training camp Wednesday for the 2006 Worlds.

Dwyane Wade (Miami), LeBron James (Cleveland), Chauncey Billups (Detroit), Gilbert Arenas (Washington) and Carmelo Anthony (Denver) will lead a talent-rich roster of National Basketball Association stars who have assembled for the next week camp in the run up to the Worlds in Japan.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski said his priorities will be developing chemistry and teamwork as the Americans plan to pull out all the stops to avoid a repeat of their disappointing third place performance in the Athens Olympics.

"This is USA basketball," Krzyzewski said. "This is a team that has to share the ball and share responsibility.

"It's good to look at everyone as a role player. In 1992 they had Michael Jordan as his primer, but other great players played a role. They all played defense and were unselfish."

The US opens the Las Vegas camp with 20 players, but that will be reduced to the final group of 12 that will travel to Japan for the Worlds which begin Aug. 19.

The US team is coming off a disappointing 2004 Summer Olympics where they went 5-3 and won the bronze medal. Leading scorers Stephon Marbury and Allen Iverson were not invited back this time.

The main aim for the US has to improve on is defense. They finished ninth in defense in 2004 by allowing an average of 90.5 points per game.

The United States is in group E with 2006 Olympic silver medalist Italy, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, China and Senegal. AFP

LEBRON James prepares for 2006 Worlds.

Golf trails in battle vs doping

HOYLAKE, England—HENRY AND PLEHE Fred Funk (bottom) is the prospect of testing golfers for drugs.

"I wish they would screen me of using steroids," Funk said Wednesday strolling quickly from the putting green to the locker room on the eve of the British Open.

Of course, performance-enhancing drugs are no laughing matter. IOC with a code of conduct calling for players to police themselves, legalized the other major sport when it comes to a formal tipping policy. That could change following Wednesday's announcement that testing will be done at the World Amateur Team championship at Stellenbosch, South Africa (Oct. 22-29).

"We don't think at the moment that there is much use of performance-enhancing drugs in golf," said Peter Dawson, the chief executive of Royal & Ancient.

"We aim, if you like, raising our levels on making sure that we can administer that properly," said Dawson, adding the tests would be a good first step toward developing an effective doping system. "It's a rehearsal. I don't know when you're going to see drug testing in professional golf around the world, but we would support it."

For the US PGA Tour, there's a million details between those who watch the top pros toward and those who say it would be a waste of time, money and effort.

"We've told golfers out here," Funk said. "You're either good enough or you're not good enough. I don't think drugs will help you get better."

Funk is mindful of the mistake that hurt baseball, cycling and athletics. Tom Dresser it and he believes golf needs to send a clear signal that performance enhancers won't be allowed. He said tolerated testing programs, complete with a list of banned substances, is the only way to deliver that message. AP

TIPS Tee Times will be the 2006 British Open for no more than 156 holes. **July 19**—8:30 a.m. 8:35 a.m. 11:30 a.m. **July 20**—8:40 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:05 p.m. **July 21**—8:50 a.m. 8:55 a.m. 2:10 p.m. 2:15 p.m. **July 22**—9:00 a.m. 9:05 a.m. 2:20 p.m. 2:25 p.m. **July 23**—Final Round 8 a.m. 2:30 p.m.

TIGER Woods of South Korea watches his tee shot on the 5th hole during the first round of the BRITISH Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake Thursday.

3-way tie for early Open lead

HOYLAKE, ENGLAND—FINLAND'S MIKKO ILONEN, SOUTH KOREAN Ok Hi and Marcus Fraser of Australia were the early clubhouse leaders as the British Open returned to Hoylake Thursday after an absence of 10 years.

All found advantage of the near-perfect playing conditions that followed heavy overnight rain to card four-under par 68s.

Ilonen, resident contenders of his win in the British Amateur Open here in 2000 by going out in 33 and following up with birdies at the 10th, 16th and 18th against a bogey at the 13th to grab a share of the lead.

Ho, a 32-year-old who plays most of his golf on the Japanese tour, set the early pace as he rounded the turn in 32.

He secured a four-under at the 10th "bogeyed" the 14th, but had another birdie at the 16th to set the early pace.

The 27-year-old Fraser, who missed the cut in his debut British Open at St. Andrews last year, went out in two-under 34 and added three birdies for one bogey on the back nine.

Spain's Sergio Garcia, still only 26, but playing in his 13th British Open was handily placed at three-under through 14 holes, level with former US Open champion Retief Goosen of the United States and Australia's Mark Hensby who shared his area back after a triple-bogey seven at the third.

Wide opening day crowds accustomed over the historic Royal Liverpool Golf Club links and they were rewarded by a barrage of birdies and a canopy of big name golfing talent to swoon.

Biggest cheer of the morning went to Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, runner-up last year to Tiger Woods, as he teed-off.

The 43-year-old Scot did not let his fans down by hitting his approach to the crenellated pot-bunker opener to six feet and sinking the birdie putt.

It was the perfect start to Montgomerie's 17th Open campaign, but bogeys at the fourth and seventh soon took the wind out of his sails.

The 2002 champions Ernie Els still in search of his best form following the knee injury that sidelined him for five months last year, went out with a bogey, but he too was back in the red with birdies at the seventh and third.

US Masters champion Phil Mickelson, whose preparations for this take were among the most restricted, opened with a birdie followed by a bogey before a double at the fifth signalled his intentions.

World No 3 Vijay Singh had a spot of opening few holes and was level par through seven holes. Top Scots hopes Lloyd Howell and Luke Donald had contrasting starts. AFP

WBA champion Diaz also wants Pacquiao

FOLLOWING PRIDE HE CONSIDERS PAY A direct challenge from superstar Manny Pacquiao, World Boxing Association lightweight champion Juan "Baby Red" Diaz said he is ready to take on the Filipino pound for pound great to the forum.

Pacquiao was earlier quoted as saying he knows the way to beat Diaz after the WBA champion had beaten Filipino Randy Suico via a ninth-round technical knockout last Sunday at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Hong Kong. "I saw his poor technique. Now let's see what happens," Diaz told Pacquiao in his public challenge made at the popular boxing website Boxingtalk.

Asked on a possible pay-per-view showdown with Pacquiao, the undefeated Diaz said: "I think it would be great and my manager told me that he wants to fight no less than 1 bout his (Pacquiao) second pause."

But for the fight to push through, experts say Diaz should go down to the junior lightweight limit of 130 lbs rather than Pacquiao going up to the 135 level where Diaz reigns. Diaz has avoided by boss calling out Asian lightweight king Diego Corrales for rematch awaited showdown.

Pacquiao is himself gearing up for a Sep. 18 exhibition match-up with Erik Morales in Las Vegas. If a fight with Diaz is not forthcoming, it would happen sometime early or middle next year.

WBC super featherweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera is also trying to lure Pacquiao to a rematch following his eleventh-round thrashing at the hands of the Filipino icon in 2003. Sathyen L. Lagumbay, contributor

Kimoni Tour lures record 1,160 players

THE SIX MONTH BATTLE FOR SLOTS TO THE Eleventh Badminton Tour 2006 grand finals culminated in a two-weekend competition recently when a record breaking 1,160 players took part in the Shuttle leg at the Olympic Badminton Court in Libis, Quezon City.

A prize package of P40,000 that included a P1,000 in cash and a trophy for Champion Power 600 international premium racket worth P10,000 were given to each level champion in juniors' division, ladies, men's and mixed doubles categories during the celebrity-studded awards night in Angeles Bar in Shaw Boulevard.

Tournament sponsors were Mercurio Sporting Goods and Hyper Gains Philippines.

Meanwhile, all category level champions and runners-up of the seven legs of Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 were treated to a fellowship last night at Club Breton in Parañaque City.

The regional qualifiers clash tomorrow and Sunday in the Battle of the Champions at the Makati Market Activity Center, Pasi Bonifacio, Taguig.

Grueling Alpine climb dashes Landis' title bid

LA TOUSSUIRE, FRANCE—IN A SINGLE torturous alpine stage, Floyd Landis' lead and chance for a Tour de France victory slipped away almost pitifully as rider after rider passed him on the punishing final climb Wednesday.

Abandoned by his teammates, Landis fell apart, dropped to 11th place and lost the leader's yellow jersey a day after regaining it in a spectacular ride up the famed Alpe d'Huez.

Landis, now 8 minutes, 8 seconds behind new race leader Oscar Pereiro, was unable to attack, let alone maintain his brash, all-or-nothing style. Lance Armstrong's calling card en route to a record seven Tour wins.

"I suffered from the beginning, and I tried to hide it," Landis said. "I don't expect to win the Tour at this point. It's too easy to get back 8 minutes."

With almost the entire Discovery Channel squad to go up La Toussuire, Spain's Carlos Sastre burst out of a small group of would-be favorites that included Landis, and Pereiro and several other contenders gave chase.

The American simply couldn't keep up, losing the 10-second lead with valuable ground to the race.

"Sometimes you don't feel well, and sometimes it's on the wrong day. What can I say?" asked Landis, who is riding with an injured hip.

And with that, Landis went in search of something cold and soothing.

"Drink some beer, that's all I'm thinking about now," he said, adding: "I would be lying if I said I was not disappointed."

He is gamest on his happy-carry Tour, the first in his career, in winning one.

LANDIS: Abandoned by his team mates

PEREIRO: New overall leader

It's been a strange from the get-go.

On the eve of the July 1 start, nine riders—including pre-race favorites Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso—were sent home after they were implicated in a Spanish doping investigation.

Even since, the race has lacked a standout leader. Seven riders have worn yellow — one fewer than the record. Landis and Pereiro each have led twice since the American first won the leader's jersey last Thursday.

The first time, Pereiro took a gamble. It allowed Pereiro to take the yellow jersey on Saturday by not having chase as the Spaniard broke away and, in the end, amassed a deficit of nearly 30 minutes over Landis.

Landis regained the lead on Tuesday by shadowing Sastre's Andreas Kloden, runner-up to Armstrong in 2006, to make sure that he didn't gain time on him.

When Pereiro regained the lead on Wednesday, Phonak's original plan appeared to have backfired, and the team looked to it's badly-undermanned crew of six riders.

"It was difficult to imagine that things would turn out like this," Pereiro said. "Floyd Landis seemed unreachable, but like everybody, he wasn't immune to setbacks.

"Yesterday is one said that today could be my day."

Denmark's Michael Rasmussen was the 162-kilometer (113-mile) stage through the Col du Glandon and the Col de la Croix-de-Fer—two climbs so hard that they defy classification in cycling's ranking system—before the uphill finish. AP

SAFE: Pittsburgh Pirates' Freddy Sanchez reaches to tag Colorado Rockies' Luis Gonzalez (4) who was called safe by umpire Mike Winters after inning a fifth inning double off Pirates starter Zach Duke Wednesday. The Pirates won, 6-5.

Meralco, Purefoods shuttlers triumph

MERALCO JOINED ALIVE IN THE CERVINI Masters and Purefoods easily triumphed in the Corporate Classic Wednesday as action resumed in the Sportshouse and Bonbap Corporate Badminton Championships at the Club ASA in Libis and Old Megamall.

Thanks to the raised doubles cadres of Doodle Serrano and Brando Barba, Meralco entrusted a 3-2 win over Inlandlipinos to stay in the running for a finals berth in the four-team Masters division after an opening day loss to Philippine Seas. Serrano and Barba were beaten finally in the third set to score a 21-12, 18-21, 21-8 triumph over JC Bonjayos and Sherry Catalig of Inlandlipinos and provide the surprised point for the Meralco dailybers.

Purefoods advanced the easy way, routing Barangay, S.B., and emerging as one of the teams to beat in the Classic division of the week-long tournament organized by Summer Olympian Pereza Lhi.

Meralco and Inlandlipinos split the first four matches, paving the way for the all-important duel between the pairs of Serrano-Barbo and Bonjayos-Catalig.

Michelle Darenzo and Cordela Bautista put Meralco first on the scoreboard with a 21-7, 21-13 decision over Mariel Tongco and Diane Leynes. Jun Inlandlipinos evened up through Wilfredo Adio and Ted Isorena, who defeated Alex Cuevas and Danilo Edelmoro, 15-21, 21-16.

The two teams split the next two matches before Serrano and Barbo came up with the decisive tie-breaker.

Eleven teams in the Classic and four in the Masters are entering action in the fourth edition of the event.

Solar Sports airs JVC finals tonight

FEATURED FINAL MATCHES OF THE RECENT JVC Open Badminton Championships will be telecast beginning 8 tonight on Solar Sports. The championship to the girls' singles in the juniors division, pitting Kaiya Abbe and Debbie Castillo. Kick off the three-day coverage of the finals of P1 million event sponsored by JVC (Phils.) Inc. Also on tap are the juniors boys' doubles match between brothers Omar and Enrique Magpayo against James Bill Bacon and Allen Jay Tanyang and the elite mixed doubles duel between Ronald Lingasan and Gisalee Claparol versus Isidro Abad and Mae Intengan.

SPORTS

RP Cuppers whitewash Singapore

By Marc Anthony Reyes

"I HOPE THIS CONTINUES SO WE CAN GET OUT OF THIS GROUP."

This from someone very uncomfortable at playing in Group 3—the lowest in the field—of the Davis Cup qualifying.

Philippine co-playing captain Roland Ivo, a customary when the country was competing against the region's best, made the comments yesterday after the Philippines shut down Singapore for its second straight victory in the non-Oceania zone at the Manila Polo Club.

Fil-American Erik Tolzo and Gil Mendit once again came to the fore with brilliant victories in their singles matches before homegrown aduos Jimmy Arrellis and JP Luna secured the doubles for a 2-0 victory.

With a similar shutout victory over Sri Lanka last Wednesday, the Philippines is now assured of reaching the semifinals going into its last assignment against Vietnam today.

The semifinals will be played in summer.

Later, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games mixed doubles champ with Nina Zalamcela, completely dominated Mia Wee, 6-0, 6-0, to touch off the rout at the upper notches shell owner of the posh Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

The 30-year-old Tolzo also routed the JSF ramp last Wednesday with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Sri Lanka's Anuti Jayasinghe.

Mendit, the NDSC singles ether, then whipped 104 Hanis Kuis, 6-1, 6-0, in a solid follow-up to his 6-1, 6-2 win over Sri Lankan Nimbuna Godamanna.

The twin victories gave Sycuano co-hold to tie-ills and Tierro the doubles after handing them last Wednesday. And the duo didn't let him down, scorings 6-2, 6-1 sets.

So until he expects a tougher time against Vietnam today.

Eight teams are competing in the qualifying phase. The Philippines is grouped with Sri Lanka, Singapore and Vietnam. Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh are in the other bracket.

The top two teams will advance to the Saturday semifinals. The winners clash on Sunday for the title and the open promotion to Group 2.

WHITEWASH ERIC Tolzo returns to Ho Wee of Singapore. ROY ISTOCK

Malaysian ace ousts Kennevic; 2 Pinoys gain in Macau Open

KENNEVIC AGUINCION FOR ALL

early exit against a Malaysian heavyweight but two other Filipino shuttlers made it through the first round of the men's singles in the Macau Open badminton championship Wednesday night.

The 26-year-old Aguincion, the other half of the country's most famous tandem, ran into world No. 9 and current Philippine Open titlist Hafiz Hashim and lost, 14-21, 8-21.

But he will still see action late Thursday in the mixed doubles event with Anne Hunsie. As world No. 20, the American obtained her no-question in the draw.

Making up for Kennevic's loss were Filipino brothers and Christopher Flores, who handled out their foes from the host Macau.

Fernandez doubled Mae Tong, 21-9, 21-14, while Flores downed Chan Wai Hong, 21-16, 21-16.

But their prospects in the second round are not so bright. Fernandez is pitted against Chinese Hao Chunlai while Flores will duel the Singaporean's Yeh Pang.

"All the world class players are here," said head coach Arnel Chan of the five-star event. "We are not setting any goals other than gaining as much experience as possible."

Indonesian superstar Taufik Hidayat and Chinese former world No. 1 Lin Dan, who both played in last month's HSBC Cup 2, are also moving across along with the world's top player Chong Wei Lee of Malaysia.

Four other RP players bowed out.

Lloyd Stevens, one of the country's top singles players, marched the first set but was eventually outplayed by Indonesia's Ajeh Suirul Anas, 20-22, 21-12, 21-6.

Nedel Jandoleno fell to Hong, 7-21, 9-21. Hope Sandoli lost to South Korea's Jung Young-sae, 14-21, 11-21, and Orvin Lopez bowed to South Korea's Hwang Jung-seong, 3-21, 9-21. Marc Anthony Reyes

ASUNCION Tough opener

On the menu: Increased food, travel allowances for RP bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HERE'S A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS FOR NATIONAL athletes.

The Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said it is planning to increase the daily meal allowance of international athletes from $30 to $50 as well as the regular local stipend from P500 to P600.

Commissioner Richie Garcia said the PSC, in coordination with the Philippine Olympic Committee, is discussing the plan in view of the rising prices of commodities.

Garcia said that for the longest time the agency gives $30 a day for athletes competing or training abroad—a food card for all breakfast, lunch and dinner is paid for entirely by sponsors.

"That is unfair to those who get the same amount but pay for their food and food," Garcia told the bureau. "So, since we are not allowed to give pocket money to anybody, we thought it's better to change the name [allowance] to 'contingency fund'."

Those who won't get free food and hotel accommodations abroad will be given additional $50 a day, according to the commissioner.

"That way we don't risk getting charged with malversation because there are government funds," Garcia said.

The PSC, added Garcia, is also planning to increase the food allowances but will try to work out an arrangement with the canteens to make sure the athletes get the same three-course amount of food every day at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and at Philsports.

VISMIN INTERSCHOLASTIC

Paref-Springdale, Sacred Heart golfers out front

CEBU—PAREF SPRINGDALE AND ZAMCHEI Victor pulled away to unassailable leads in the boys' grade school and high school play, leaving just the girls' college-high school and grade school undecided after the penultimate round of the 2nd Samsung Vismin Interscholastic Golf Championships at the Cebu Country Club course.

Charles Daniel Uy scored 40 points, Kevin Salcedo dropped in 36 and Paolo Ian Uy tallied 35 as Sacred Heart totaled 111 for the day and 226 for 36 holes, 44 points clear of Paref-Springdale-subdivided 93, 182.

The grade schoolers of Paref-Springdale, however, maintained a 14-point spread over Universal of St. La Salle-Los Angeles Ann Gonderson scored 46, Marsha Mendoza had another 32 and Jhoe Uy notched 14 for 90 and 177—for two days in the three-day event sponsored chiefly by Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp.

CIE bucked another big round by Sacred Heart's Stephanie Chua to stay seven points clear in girls' college-high school while Our Lady of Lourdes Subdivision took a five-point lead in grade school.

With most of the tees-offers virtually taken, it's on shifts to the battle for the individual trophies.

In the girls' high school-college division, Love Lynn Galgalo of Xavier (87-95) savoured a four-point lead over Chou (92-89) and Shaniza Wee of Holy Cross High (86-85), while Sunny Chong led CIE teammate Mia Ji Han by a point in the special division. Irma Cabana of Bright Academy had a 24-point lead in the girls' grade school category.

Blazing the way to the boys' division were Louie Mañano of Xavier in college, Ishiel Sia of Bethany Christian School in high school, Gardence in grade school and Frans Ivan Uy of Bethany in the special division.

Matches on 11 up on Charles Francis Tia.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Ennie G. Velasco

see ballot: [illegible]

A first look at 'World Trade Center,' a chat with Oliver Stone

LOS ANGELES—"I'VE JUST BEEN TO THE PHILIPPINES," DIRECTOR Oliver Stone told me when I congratulated him on the 25th anniversary of the release of "Platoon," which was shot in Cavite. The milestone was celebrated with a special showing of the film in Cannes last May.

The acclaimed director, who went on (later on) to win Golden Globe for directing "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July," which was also shot in the Philippines, explained that he was in Manila on "private business" with Ani Arabo.

Ani is a Filipino producer/entrepreneur and technical advisor who is the go-to guy when a Hollywood comes to shoot film in the Philippines. He made it possible for Oliver to continue working on "Platoon" even while the People Power revolt against the Marcos regime was raging in Cebu.

Hoping that Oliver was not being coy about the true nature of his visit to the Philippines, I asked if the "private business" meant he was planning to make another movie there. "Unfortunately no," he replied, giving me that familiar gut-wrenched double arrack insecurity made the filmmaker, who turns 60 in September, appear boyish.

Later on during the press con, when a reporter asked how much sleep he had the night before, he broke into that smile again and asked, "Do I look that bad?" He smiled, amid the roaring laughter, "Not enough. I need some more sleep. But you guys are keeping me awake."

Indeed, the person large in Oliver's senses with excitement for his latest film, "World Trade Center," a moving drama based on the true story of John McLoughlin and Will Jimeno, two police officers who rushed into the burning World Trade Center on 9/11 to help rescue people trapped in the rubble. But they themselves were trapped when the towers collapsed.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert V. Ng'ambi

Three-hankie film

"World Trade Center" is a three-hankie film that carries you away emotionally as a cast against true to movie John and Will's survival by Nicolas Cage and Michael Peña (like "Lucid" actor will get major plaudits for his performance here), respectively—ground before their air vac out. The anguish of the two men's families and the heroic efforts of rescue teams, especially the determination of a former Marine to find our friend in the massive rubble, are movingly portrayed.

While it was clear that Oliver was out to make a film focusing on John and Will's miraculous survival—and he succeeds on those [illegible] many of the journalists critical that the filmmaker had done a large scale dramatization after 9/11 with all its international and political implications. They squirmed that from the very beginning director takes a not hesitant to speak about his liberal ideology. The hint of questioning hovered at this point.

"Don't pigeonhole me by saying this is not a typical Oliver Stone story" Oliver said. He's still very much a political animal, of course. One of his most potent statements on the press con was, "The consequences of that day are far worse than that day [itself]."

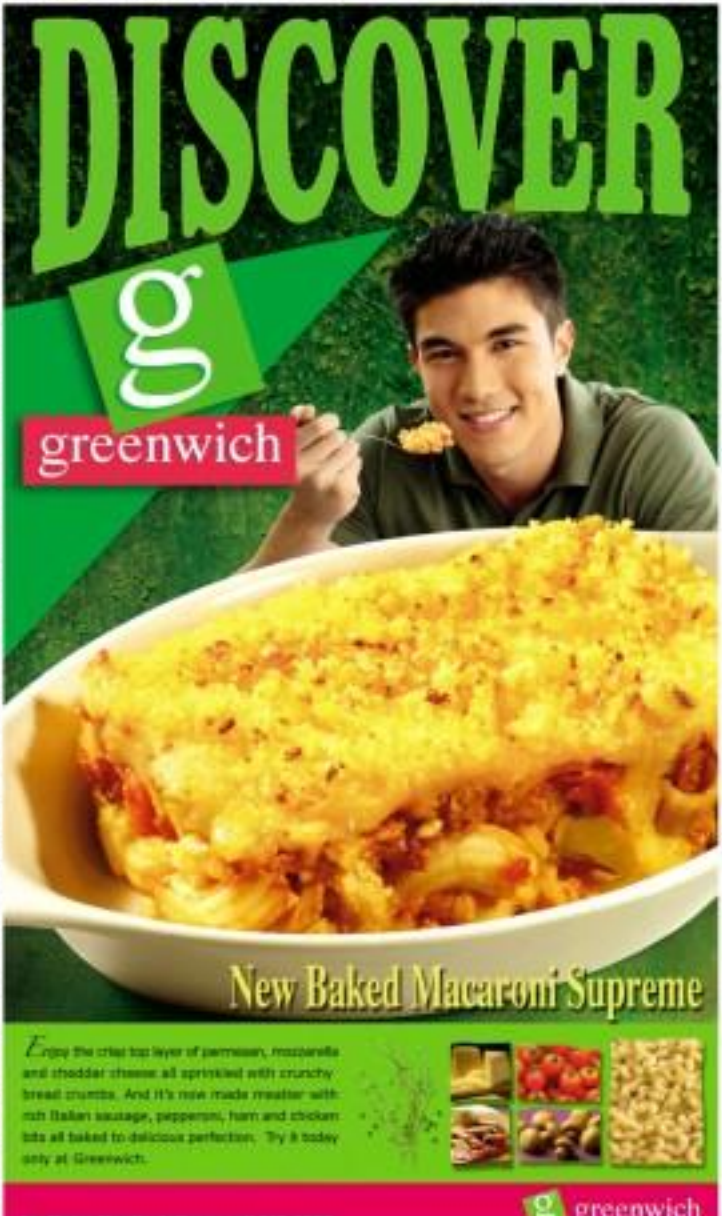
While the is a very moving, intimate look at 9/11 as seen through the eyes of two men and their families, did you wrestle with the idea of doing a film on 9/11 in a larger context, with international and political repercussions?

He, in fact, on the day of the attacks, the New York Times spoke to several people in the business. I was one of them and I said, "Why not do a film?" The whole tendency at the time was to go the other way and say, "Well, now that [you] did ring on all reality films, right?" Everything that's violent will be pulled from distribution. The world has changed forever. Not so, I argued. The world will go on and I think we should make a film about terrorism. I mentioned the "Battle of Algiers" because I thought it was good to take a good hard look at what this is about. I didn't do that movie because the climate was not right in this country for that. In another time it may still be done but it may be done by other people, too.

What story-telling approach did you use?

We told it from inside out. It's subjective story about these two men and their wives, their families, the rescuers, what they saw. I honored that. We stuck to what they felt and saw at the time. They did not see the towers fall. They only saw the collapse of the towers from inside. They were, in fact, at the greatest ease point of all. They were right in the middle of the true towers. It's a miracle that they survived. It was because of the elevator shaft. Boom, which they ran to. It would have ruined the story to jump out from that perspective. Everything was supposed to be

A2 NEXT LOOK: SA-1



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10 LOVE WRECKED

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CITISQUARE MALABON
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3 RV RUNAWAY VACATION
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 WHITE LADY
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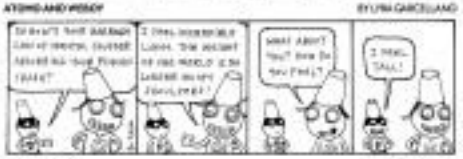

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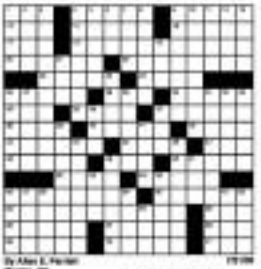

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

8					6	4		5
		5				1		
4	9				3		6	
7		3						
						2		1
	6		1				5	7
		1				6		
5		8	2					9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

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Answer to previous puzzle

8	4	1	3	5	6	7	2	9
8	5	3	7	9	4	6	3	1
3	7	6	2	1	8	9	4	5
7	9	3	1	2	5	8	6	4
4	2	5	8	6	9	1	7	3
6	1	8	4	3	7	5	9	2
1	6	4	5	7	3	2	8	9
2	8	9	6	4	1	3	5	7
5	3	7	9	8	2	4	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

Talent fee with 'many, many zeroes'

RUSHES

ADRIANN GREENBERG

"MANY, MANY ZEROES."

That was as much as singer-actress Sharon Cuneta would say about her salary for an endorser of Sony Philippines' Sparkling INSIA (pronounced *ningal*) CRT television sets.

There were other considerations, she cautioned during the product launch on Wednesday. "You should know how I choose my endorsements. If I wished to order only, all I'd have to do is say yes to all the offers." But she raved about which products her face would be attached to, she said. "Besides, Regine stands like ... Mega!" she added, chuckling heavily. "Sad did you know that Mega is the name of the brightest star in the night sky?"

Of all those many, many zeroes... er, stars?

New addiction

GREAT, let us tell you about a forthcoming new addiction. HBO and HBO Signature's new original series, "Entourage," debuts in Asia on July 30, 8 p.m. You don't know about Hollywood celebrity life until you see this one, about a hot young star whose career is just taking off. "Entourage" bares others to the young actor and his coterie of aides. It stars Adrian Grenier, of "Drive Me Crazy," and is loosely based on the life of Mark Wahlberg, and his entourage.

Watching of "Jungle Night"—also known as the Gabriela Elites underwear that literally and figuratively overexposed himself—is, in fact, the actor's executive producer!

Bonding moments

VIVIAN Lim Soon invited to a "bonding weekend." That's a rehearsal-wedding between the lead stars of Ritche movie movie—Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez for OMA Films' koprod with Viva Films' "Till I Met You." The love previously starred in "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw." How much more bonding are we talking about? Absurgo.

Sorry, Britney

LONDON—The National Enquirer celebrity magazine has apologized to Britney Spears in its British editions for reporting that the pop star was ready to divorce husband Kevin Federline.

"In the 11th and 12th June 2006 issues of the UK Enquirer, we published articles under the headlines 'Britney Marriage is Over' and 'Britney and Kevin: And Now Their Divorce?'" the magazine said in its latest edition on newsstands on Tuesday. "Contrary to what our articles might have suggested, we now accept that their marriage is not over." Reuters

Off and ... on!

LOS ANGELES—The on-again, off-again love affair between actress Pamela Anderson and singer Kid Rock is on again and that time they plan to marry. The former Playboy model and the 20-inch cup-sizer will exchange vows on July 29 aboard a yacht near the French Riviera city of St. Tropez, the US Weekly reported. Reuters

FANNY Serrano poses Mega for Sony shoot.

BRITNEY SPEARS and Kevin Federline

TALK ABOUT HANGE

See those snapshots of Ai-Ai de las Alas? She went from teary to cheery in one minute flat, and Inquirer Entertainment was there—at Imus Production' victory party for "Bayang Barrios ang Pinoy—Not Once, But Twice"—to witness it. Photo 1 | Ai-Ai is asked about the recent breakup with her boyfriend. Photo 2 | We take it she was upset. Photo 3 | Okay, maybe just a little.

'No sex please, we're Indian'

MUMBAI—INDIA IS TO SCRIPT its own chaste celebrity version of the television reality show "Big Brother" with a strict ban on snoozabling between the stars, the show's producer said Tuesday.

The makers of the show—a worldwide hit and a rich vein of tittle gossip—are targeting evildoers, television stars and Bollywood actors to make up the six men and six women for the program to be screened later this year.

But the producers said their show would not follow some of the baudier aspects of the program seen in other countries including bikini-clad orgies and sexy-time wannabe stars.

"Explicit physical stuff is not acceptable to Indian audiences," said Rajesh Kumar, managing director of Endemol India.

"They can just hold hands I suppose—that would be deemed sex," Kumar—or Splodging as it is known in the Indian media—is strictly forbidden on television, even between married couples, although verbal phrases are full of emotional drama, infidelity and pregnancy out of wedlock.

Big Brother was first shown in the Netherlands in 1999 with the format found on 21 people living in a house, cut off from the world, with television viewers voting on who should be evicted. It has since been shown in some 70 countries, including the Philippines.

"Putting together people willing to give up their personal life or privacy would in itself be something that would get us into a controversy," said Kumar.

"The controversies we would get into would be at an absolutely basic level. Can a Bollywood actress give up her phone?"

Few couples live together before marriage in conservative India and pre-marital sex is not discussed in public, particularly in traditional rural areas.

On the party circuit in cities like Mumbai and New Delhi, public shows of affection are regularly snapped by celebrity photographers and relationships between acting stars feature strongly in the gossip columns. AFP

MICHAEL PENA

NICHOLAS CAGE

A first look at 'World Trade ...'

From page A2-1

from inside their cranks and that of their families and enemies.

What were you doing during 9/11?

I was asleep in LA and my wife woke me up to tell me to turn on the television. I was, as everyone else was, surprised, shocked and horrified. I didn't dwell on it ... because I think the whole country kind of got crazy about it, got into a media cover of 9/11. Simpson preparations and beyond. I never watched more than 20 minutes of television in one sitting. I swear I slept maybe 30.

What's your stand on how we responded to 9/11?

I've said it to October 2001 and I've never backed down from it because there's no reason to. In essence, the consequences of that day are far worse than that day. We can get into the lessons in another hours.

You mentioned that the climate was not right in this country for a film that takes a hard look at 9/11. Can you talk about the right time, the right subject, the right movie to have an impact?

I don't know whether films do have an impact. I did "Platoon" and, as you know, I went around the world with it. I did "Born on the Fourth of July." That, too, went around the world. "Heaven and Earth" was lost (inconsistent), but those two films about Vietnam did not stop long from happening. Many of the young soldiers sent to Iraq were dead even before "Platoon" so I have a genuine doubt about the power of work. You do the best you can, you put it out there and you can't expect it necessarily to be heard or seen or heard. All you can do is your best. "Killing Fields" was made five years after the Cambodian genocide. I felt that was very effective timing. I would have done "Platoon" five, 10 years earlier if I could.

Do you think the moviegoers can appreciate "World Trade Center" purely as a human story, separate it from its political aspect?

That's a valid question because normally, the event area so politicized, that the whole world has been (equally) politicized. The United States sold its allies, "Invite trials us or you're against us." That's a very cowboy point of view (laughs). And the audiences would bring their ideology to the movie but it's not about that. It's about that day only, and it should make you deeply ideologize the event.

If you bring your ideologies to the movie, you're going to see something else. John and Will are politicized, the director is interviewed. Crying is that sounds, it's a miserable position. And we get older, I find it to be more so.

Whether you like it or not, you have become a historian of sorts. In the light of what's happening now, do you think the United States is learning its lesson?

When "Alexander" failed, I was screamed at (laughter). The director for not studying history (laughter). I don't think there is much interest in history. Judging from American television, the way it plays out, it's mostly commercials and history is done in a strange way I don't know that history has ever been the subject of American interest. "Alexander" did very good business abroad. We were in the top 20 grossers so there is definitely a discernment on history in the US.

Rabbi Gindes, about whom my documentary "Commandante" is and which has still not been released (laughter), said to me, "History does repeat itself but it never is recognizable to those living it." For any historian reasons who recognized the futility of the Vietnam War, it's been shocking to have lived through those last few years. But of the reasons I am so happy to get out of the country and do "Alexander" was to get away from the war mind set and get back in the original East-West conflict.

We are talking about the most essential question, how anybody has up. What is evolution? Self-forgetting or misunderstanding? These are deep questions. Maybe we have to forget some things in order to go on. Maybe the kids out there who watch "The OC," "Smallville" and Warner Brothers television know nothing about the world. Maybe evolution is the way it is and that's why each generation and there's a thing going on here that we don't understand. The computer was born artificial and the whole concept of artificial intelligence is exactly that—it is artificial. It's creating an information. But how accurate is it?

Oh, there was some money today in the paper about textbooks. (The story) made fun of how 9/11 was described to the children...as mentioned, as history! What is history? Who makes it up? My point is, eyewitnesses should be treated like most, so when I made "Platoon," from the people who went to combat, such as myself, "Even the people who were in Combat Photo (to "JFK"). Listen to those people instead of recall the talking heads.

Is there a need for this film more than ever because the lessons from 9/11 seem to be fading from memory?

Well said. If the film evoke and helps people go back and read magazine reality, it could help. I used that analogy with "Platoon" and it had a tremendous impact. You'd think that people would say, we're not going to fight wars like this. We're going to send this stuff and then it's over. Now, they're making movies like "Final Combat." The mood drifted back to a more militaristic phase ... and we see the effects of it today.

It read the editorial at rewards, JOHN for this one.)

STARS Living

Color Emma G. Rosario

ALTAMIRA Martinez in a Barge Ramos gown; (left) Albert Martinez in Borgazzi

KIM CHIU Cecile Ramuneau

MIHK TAMAYO Bing Criticlist

BIANCA Gonzalez's corset by Top Shop, hoop skirt by Raja Laurel

Not-so-casual chic

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Nonoy Hendrickx

RIM AND COUTURE WERE MIXED AND matched at the recent YA Lanuel Grey Lopez Jr. thanksgiving Filipino awards held at the ABS-CBN studios.

Most of the stars were in designer duds, but some opted for the casual chic mood set by "Pinoy Big Brother" host Dianne Gonzalez who did a "Marian Rivera," scrimming us off the rack corset from Top Shop with a hoop skirt by Raja Laurel.

Similarly, young singing champ Sam Concepcion's outfit was from a department store in Wood, Kanye, where he hosted performed with the Plumdrop Kids at the Korean World Trade Travel Fair in June.

KORINA Sanchez/Raja Laurel

SHARON Cuneta/Paul Cabral

GABBI Marquez/Bing Criticlist

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NACHO LIBRE
RV
WHITE LADY

CINEMA 1
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
CINEMA 2
RV
WHITE LADY
LADY IN THE WATER
I WANNA BE HAPPY
NACHO LIBRE
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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LADY IN THE WATER
WHITE LADY
RV
NACHO LIBRE
I WANNA BE HAPPY
LOVEWRECKED
THE MUN

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LADY IN THE WATER
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RV
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SCARY MOVIE 4
LAKE HOUSE

NACHO LIBRE
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LOVEWRECKED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
WHITE LADY
THE MUN
LADY IN THE WATER
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SCARY MOVIE 4
SATAS MELYAR
RV

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LADY IN THE WATER
SUPERMAN RETURNS
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NACHO LIBRE
WHITE LADY

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EVENT CALENDAR

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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

RV
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SUPERMAN RETURNS

WHITE LADY
RV
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
LADY IN THE WATER
RV
NACHO LIBRE
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE MUN
WHITE LADY
SUPERMAN RETURNS

STARMALL

RESERVED
RV
RESERVED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
WHITE LADY
SUPERMAN RETURN
LOVEWRECKED
RESERVED
I WANNA BE HAPPY

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
CINEMA
WHITE LADY
LADY IN THE WATER
RV
SUPERMAN RETURN

PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
WHITE LADY
LAKE HOUSE
RV

JANICE DE BELEN

Tyler is a share share. He's now 1 year and 8 months old. Whenever, my husband, goes trips to me. I spoil him rotten. Aaka I treat him whatever is in our dinner table.- kahit hindi dapat I personally bringhim to his vet. Whenever I go abroad, I buy him all sorts of pasalubong, like a new chain bone or a bag of treats.

Marivel R. Cruz

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LADY IN THE WATER

It's fun growing out for a happy ending.

HOMEY DRAMA? Marisol Soriano says she looks up to Susan Roces like a real mother.

GMA ob Veronica, center, with DSWD Undersecretary Alicia Bala and Dr. Honey Carandang, psychologist

PAN founders Ali Sotto and Gina de Venecia, left; honorary member Elaine Razon, right

'We are family'

SNEAK PEEK

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rupert de la Cruz

QUITE NATURALLY, THE new sitcom "John En Shirley," produced by KB Entertainment and the Kapamilya network, is a family affair.

The first taping (for last week) was "like gathering the Sunday lunch with the clan," said Marisol Soriano, a.k.a. Shirley. "It didn't feel like work at all. It was like magic. We kept laughing and chatting between takes."

It could be because they had all started working together. Marisol explained, "Erik (Matti) was my sitmat (father) on 'John & Marsha' for almost two decades."

Classic comedy

As director Joel de Leon put it, Marisol literally grew up on the set of "John & Marsha," the comedy classic that ran from 1973 to 2000.

In the late 1970s, Dindi Bari was working on the shows "Dalaw" and "Jakol Balad," right next door to "John & Marsha" in Broadcast City.

"I used to visit the John & Marsha set and I would share the lemon with Mang Dodoy," he recalled. "Years, chance I got, I watched director Joling Fernando at work."

He met Marisol when she was still in pigtails and bobby socks. "I auspanxi the dream song of the children's show 'Kalokoy Maamo,' where Marisol was one of the lead stars."

"John En Shirley" is produced by Archie Brondolo's (TM) love when I was a kid," mused Marisol, whose family's warm KBS 9 was the original home of "John & Marsha" and "Kalokoy Maamo." Thus, in a lot of ways, it was a "homecoming" for Marisol.

On the other hand, the last time Marisol worked with Susan Roces was in the 1986 Regal movie, "Inday, Inday sa Balitaw," playing mother and daughter. "This time, she's my mother-in-law," Marisol said. "But we treat each other on first name." Which made taping a breeze, she added, as they are like mother-and-daughter in real life.

There was just one sad note, Marisol said —relieving "Mommy Marsha." That's actress Rita Illanan, who passed away five years ago.

Pick-up point

This spin-off is picking up where the original left off. Although Shirley is now married, she insists on taking care of dad John after the death of her mom and her brother Bally's migration to the United States.

"I've always been partial to family shows," Think Bari said. "This sitcom will show how a father and child's roles are reversed when the parent grows old."

"It's a comedy, but also about real life," Marisol explained. "It touches on that laughter can make all problems bearable."

Three of a kind

THE HOST DESCRIBED GINA as parents Gina de Venecia, Ali Sotto and Elaine Razon, who each had to deal with grief over the tragic loss of a child.

Gina and Ali have founded Stairway Thumbs to Think (TAT) Foundation to help mothers recover from such despair.

PARTY! PARTY!

During PANsiversary get-together, Gina and Ali welcomed Elaine Razon as their first honorary member.

"Ha'tar, you are not alone," said Gina. "We are one with you in prayer—that you may have the strength to overcome this most painful and unspeakable ordeal."

The assembly was held at the De Venecia's riverside Eastlee, 15 members met at the Mariveles Garden in Sampaguita Stadium to form this support group. PANs flag ship project is a bonding retreat expected to open by the end of the year at the DSWD main compound in Mariveles, Bataan.

Said Gina: "It will be a place where orphaned mothers can be together, with social workers who will help them process their grief."

PANs goal is to organize local chapters in every municipality, creating "grief consultants" at the barangay level.

ADOLPHY in a scene with commercial model Bubbie Macapagal, who topped the audition to play Shirley's husband.

KITCHIE BENEDICTO, boss of the original series, here with Priel and Marisol, live produces the new sitcom.

SUSAN schools her with Most Rendez, who plays her husband.

SIBLING REVELRY: Vanessa and Ara Mariol share a light moment.

CLAIRE SALVADOR-BARTS, another newcomer, in cast as Marisol's daughter.

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SUPERMAN
RETURNS

Fashion & romance

STEADY COUPLE Jericho Rosales and Heart Evangelista are now seen on billboards all over the country as image models for Penshoppe. Smart Living had a chat with them during breaks in this exclusive fashion pictorial.

SHOW STOPPERS

How have your idols influenced the way you dress?

J: I don't idolize them because of their looks. It's their music and the way they move that I like. I get turned off by people who dress well just to get my attention.

H: Jessica is it's "...no inch taller than me. I am conscious! when I see her in outfits that I wouldn't normally think I can wear.

Are you big on accessories?

H: I don't just use them. They have to mean something to me.

H: Yes I am. The bigger, the better for me, especially when my dress or blouse is very plain.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

John says:

"Mr. pulover and I hesn't look alike. The Primrose Cello (left photo). She wears lace tops—a striped pink-and-gray tank and a plain pink one—over brown cargo cropped pants. Plus a trucker cap. (Strappy high heels are Heart's.) Jericho wears a western-looking top and Stonewash ja Penshoppe-boy denims.

At right, Heart goes for the '50s look—chic with polyadia prints under a purple knit bolero with puff sleeves. We get Tibidabo (Penshoppe accessories line) for her to wear as belt. She also wears chandelier earrings. Echo to is a green, ankle- and brown sporty shirt. To make it pop out, we threw in a red bandana.

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WHITE LADY	SUPERMAN RETURNS	NACHO LIBRE	
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN I	LADY IN THE WATER		
RUNAWAY VACATION		PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2	

MALL

1	RUNAWAY VACATION	2	LADY IN THE WATER	3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN I
4	WHITE LADY	5	NACHO LIBRE		

Barbie Almalbis

BOOKS

TONY BACON'S "THE ULTIMATE Guitar Book" is one of my favorites. I got this for my birthday two years ago. The book has a very detailed history of the guitar. It features photographs of famous, rare and vintage guitars and stories of all the famous guitar makers.

I also own a copy of Tool Mitchell: The Complete Stories and Lyrics." This is one of my favorite possessions.

Marinel R. Cruz

Pilita Corrales

FAVORITE NOOKS

HOST OF MY SWEETHEARTS are done at the restaurant, Pilita's, in Greenhills, San Juan. Mostly, I'm home only when my grandchildren are here. The living room is their favorite place. They run around and jump up and down the couch a lot. Favorite space has to be...

Marinel R. Cruz

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JULY 19 to 25

Did You Know...

DIRK Nibia is reportedly moving a whole couch to Hyogo for his latest romantic movie starring Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez. Robin is said to have recommended his (remember — to stay there—long his bet, pack his boxer, toothbrush and coffee ice bowl ang, at retreat...for the whole duration of the shoot. To bebihe his chaos-arch lifestyle, that's all.

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

G1	1 WHITE LADY	2 [illegible]	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
G4	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 NACHO LIBRE	3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
	4 LOVEHANDLES	5 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
GB1	1 LADY IN THE WATER		2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
GB3	1 LADY IN THE WATER		2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
ATC	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		2 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	
	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
ACC	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 LADY IN THE WATER	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 NACHO LIBRE
M2	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		2 WHITE LADY	
	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 LADY IN THE WATER	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	

OPENS JULY 26 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

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Coco exports up 12.4% as of May /B2

BUSINESS
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Gov't bucks lifting of VAT on oil imports

Finance says move will weaken fiscal position

By Michelle F. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF Finance said it was not amenable to lift the value-added tax on oil, stressing it would only aggravate, instead of solve, the impact on the economy of skyrocketing oil prices in the international market.

"We are just starting to enjoy the benefits of higher revenues," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters, referring to the VAT on oil while the government was in the middle of its fiscal reform agenda would thwart the sustained rise toward fiscal stability, the official explained.

The economy would be in double jeopardy if the government would lift the VAT on oil, Beltran said. While high oil prices could weaken the peso and therefore hike the government's foreign denominated debts, lifting the VAT on oil would plug a major source of revenue for the government that is still trying to wipe out a huge budget deficit.

The increasing oil prices, brought by the ongoing geopolitical conflict between Israel and Lebanon, has a weakening impact on economies especially of oil import-dependent countries like the Philippines. That is because the higher dollar cost of oil would mean more demand for the foreign currency.

Price of Dubai crude, the benchmark used in setting domestic oil prices, has already hovered at an average of $62 a barrel and breached the $75-a-barrel mark. Under the government's macroeconomic assumptions for 2006, Dubai crude was estimated to arrive at an average of only $54 a barrel.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition and other militant groups have called on the government to

GOVT B2

Survey says RP execs more optimistic

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BUSINESSMEN APPEAR TO BE "MORE OPTIMISTIC" about economic prospects in the country this year but are also more stressed out, according to auditing firm Punongbayan & Araullo, a member of global financial advisory Grant Thornton International.

Punongbayan yesterday released the results of Grant's International Business Owners Survey (IBOS) for 2006, an annual international poll carried out among more than 7,000 owners of medium-sized businesses from 26 countries during the fourth quarters of 2005, IBOS began in 2002. The survey examines attitudes, plans and trends among business owners.

In the Philippines, Grant sampled 150 business owners of medium-sized firms or those with about 50 to 150 employees.

A total of 79 percent of business owners in the Philippines feel that this year will be a better year, an improvement from the 56 percent of respondents who felt the same way in 2005.

Punongbayan managing partner Gregorio S. Navarro said the "optimism" was hinged on hopes that government revenues would be boosted by increased tax collections from the passage of a law imposing a 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) on goods.

Navarro also said that businessmen tended to believe that there was "incremental" in the growth of the Philippine economy. Economic growth in the past decade has averaged 3.9 percent a year, modest by the standards of Asian developing countries, Grant said in a research report. However, in the past four years, economic growth accelerated, recording 5 percent a year. Boosted by agricultural revenues, strong exports and buoyant consumer spending. This is expected to slow down slightly from the 5.1 percent growth rate in 2006 to 4.7 percent in 2006.

SURVEY B2

Currencies

JAY
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1.29 = ₱1

As of 9 p.m., July 20, 2006

₱116.78 = $1

As of 9 p.m., July 20, 2006

GOLD $696.60/OUNCE

per world gold, July 21, 1996

Data more market report on Page B3

Stock Market

Shares jump 3%

SHARES ACQUIRED SURELY yesterday on expectations the central bill interest rate increases may soon end after the testimony of federal Reserve Chief Ben Bernanke.

Bernanke's testimony to the Senate banking committee suggested that the Fed may be near the end of its two-year campaign to raise interest rates.

In the Philippines, there are concerns the US economy and interest rates will impact to-

SHARES B2

Coco exports up 12.4% as of May

Peso seen to take a beating

By Michelle V. Remo

HONG KONG, SHANGHAI BANKING Corp. (HSBC) said the peso could take a beating from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, as the uncertainty abroad might dampen investment sentiment on emerging economies like the Philippines.

"We don't expect the market to be sanguine," said Fidel Abbas, HSBC treasurer and head of global markets. "It does not make sense for [investors] to place their money in emerging economies."

Early in the year, HSBC projected that, barring economically adverse events like oil price volatility, the peso could strengthen to as much as 48 to a dollar due to the improving fundamentals of the government.

But Abbas said that the recent air strikes in Lebanon and Hezbollah's rocket attacks in Israel, have created uncertainty in the international financial markets, stalling the movement of foreign exchange for predictable.

The Middle East accounts for about a third of the world's oil supply.

Also, Abbas said that the more pessimistic financial outlook is not fully accounted that the United States Federal Reserve will stop raising US interest rates.

He said that the rise in oil prices creates inflationary pressure which the US Fed could not easily ignore.

The US Fed has now raised its US percent following a series of hikes implemented since 2004. The last increase reflected the Fed's tough stance against inflation.

Coconut oil, copra top exports in first 5 months

By Reena V. Domingo

EXPORT VOLUMES OF COCONUT-based products were up 12.4 percent in the first five months of 2006, as exports of coconut oil and copra meal continued to increase, according to an industry report.

Preliminary data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines showed that the total volume posted between January and May totalled 994,201 metric tons compared to 884,324 MT last year.

Coconut oil remained the top export with shipments growing 16.4 percent to 565,309 MT, and coconut meal cake and copra meal cargo were up 20.9 percent to 306,481 MT.

On the other hand, unfinished desiccated or dehydrated coconut shipments shrank 9.1 percent to 47,479 MT while exports of oleochemicals went down 8.7 percent to 9,199 MT.

Ursip data further showed that while growth of volumes was maintained, export earnings in May dropped 22.8 percent to almost $60 million—reflecting revenues from the sale of oleochemicals in the form of a "substantial drop" in market prices.

Volumes for May rose 9 percent to 163,961 in copra terms, with coconut oil and copra meal shipments posting gains for the month.

Coconut oil shipments grew 34.4 percent to 104,696 MT in May, accounting for some 54.5 percent of total cargo in that period.

Also, copra meal cargo totalled 61,044 MT in May or an increase of more than half the volume shipped out in the same month of 2005.

Shipments, exports of desiccated coconut fell 27.7 percent to 8,199 MT while those of oleochemicals shrank 2 percent to 11,130 MT.

In May, Europe remained the top market for coconut oil as it grabbed a cut of 27,018 MT or 46 percent of total shipments.

The United States was the second biggest buyer with 20,502 MT or 36.6 percent while other destinations such as Malaysia Korea, Indonesia, Australia and China each bought less than 7 percent of May cargo.

South Korea and Vietnam shared the total volume of copra meal sent out, with the former getting four-fifths or 34,309 MT.

Manila Water sees better earnings in second half

By Christine A. Caylao

EAST CONCESSIONAIRE MANILA Water Co. Inc. (MWCI) expects its earnings to be better in the second semester with its billed volume more than doubling to 917 million liters per day (MLD) as of July from 440 million liters per day (MLD), a ranking company official said.

The company's aggressive capital expenditure program, efforts to reduce water losses and improvements in the efficiency of the distribution network helped improve MWCI's billed volumes, said MWCI president Jeremiah T. Lopena in an interview.

Another key factor to the company's increased billed volumes is the connection into its system of 450,000 customers belonging to the low income group under the company's "Tubig para sa Barangay" project.

Lopena said MWCI had invested P17.54 billion from 1997 to 2005 to improve its systems, which had significantly reduced its unaccounted water from 63 percent to 32.8 percent as of March this year.

Company data showed that 97 percent of the user rose, which is serviced by MWCI, was now enjoying 24-hour water availability. He said the company would further expand its coverage to include Bonifacio, Sta. Mesa, Antipolo and other listed areas.

Manila Water is completing the construction of three new pumping stations and the first

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SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION

Bigger and better financing for SMEs in 2006

Small Business Corporation chairperson and CEO Corazon Avenilla Alonzo

By Maricel D. Salazar

TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN ITS position as the lending development agency for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in providing financial and technical assistance, the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation, otherwise known as Small Business Corporation, is on track in improving its lending system since last year.

Small Business Corporation, a government financial institution attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), takes on specific financial intermediation such as credit lending for pre-bankable SMEs, guarantees for near-bankable SMEs, and wholesale facility for bankable SMEs.

Corazon Avenilla Alonzo, Small Business Corporation chairperson and CEO said, "We entered 2006 with more confidence that our lending programs have been improved and delivered the needed financing to SMEs."

The move into the lending firm whereby by lending rates and increasing loan ceilings which benefit SMEs especially those in the provinces. According to Alonzo, the National Capital Region still takes up almost 75 percent of available loans, the Visayas and Mindanao just 13 percent each.

To expand its outreach, Small Business Corporation successfully negotiated approximately P3 billion in official development assistance from the Asian Development Bank, Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFW), and the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"There will be a doubling of our resource in the next five years because of new three loans we have secured," Alonzo said.

Last year, the company posted a P1.25 billion worth in financing service under its four programs: Wholesale Lending, Retail Lending, Guarantees, and Microfinance. As of June this year, Alonzo said they are just right on target and hoped to meet the P4 billion mark targeted for 2006.

Small Business Corporation believes its countrywide presence by pushing to micro-finance program more aggressively to benefit more microentrepreneurs in the provinces in preparation of the ESAE-zero. It was also last year the Corporation redesigned its microfinance program to make it more aligned and responsive to the realities of the different types of microfinance providers.

Alonzo noted that since the merger of Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation and the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises in 2003, they have doubled their financial assistance to SMEs. In 2005, as they needed to reflect and redesign the retail lending program, the Corporation had to slow down its financial assistance to SMEs.

"The slow down was necessary for our credit programs' accountability," Alonzo explained.

The decision to slow down and redesign already yielded positive results as Small Business Corporation was able to attract more partner banks under the micro finance program given the differentiated payment features allowed by the new guidelines.

Small Business Corporation approved the granting of credit lines to three more rural banks and to our ninth bank immediately after the implementation of the new guidelines.

The lending firm's partners under the micro-finance program are mostly cooperatives and non-government organizations.

Meanwhile, wholesale lending posted a P2.3 billion in loan approvals last year while its guarantees program originated P229 million in accounts. The two programs are routed through accredited conduit banks, cooperatives, and NGOs.

As of this year, Small Business Corporation has partnered with a total of 30 financial institutions.

Under its retail lending program, more than P500 million in loans have been extended by Small Business Corporation. The unbiased household entrepreneurs who the corporation found to have the strongest potential for success.

"We don't discriminate which industry or entrepreneurs we give loans to," said Alonzo who is also the Trade and Industry Undersecretary for SME Development.

"We have enabled entrepreneurs that have no access to loan from financial institutions because they have no track record of business profitability or no collateral, to avail (themselves) of the loans," Alonzo added.

Alonzo further said, "We have been able to develop a credit system where no-no-loans is not exclusively on respect, trust and collateral but on the potential of their business."

Alonzo also noted that with the number of loans granted in the past years, Small Business Corporation already has a good banking average of gauging whether an enterprise is to succeed or not long enough to repay our loan.

Small Business Corporation reported a much lower default rate of borrowers than the default rate of some commercial banks.

"We're proud of that considering that our client base is of a higher risk nature than those of the banks," she said.

With this, Small Business Corporation further enhanced its credit evaluation system by creating an independent "Credit Policy Unit" which makes sure credit policies are now consistent and properly implemented, and it now acts as the Secretariat to the Credit Committee.

"We are in the process of reorganizing to prepare for the inflow of additional funds from the ODA loans that have been granted to us," Alonzo said. "We are optimistic with new funds coming in and our reorganized structure in place, our outreach will expand this year and we will be able to disburse more financing in SMEs", Alonzo concluded.

Highlights

2001

- ETI Secretary Mar Roxas endorsed the move to merge SBGFC and QUIDE.
- On November 11, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Executive Order 28 merged SBGFC and QUIDE and became known as the Small Business Corporation. Ms Zenaida Amelia Alonzo became its Chair and CEO and Mr. Brutel P. Lagsa as President and COO.
- The ban on the issuance of guarantees on private sector loans was lifted on August 15, 2001.

2002

- Seattle new programs were launched (SME GUIDE and SME FRIEND facilities.
- The P27.8 Million approved in retail lending also exceeded the highest previous approval level of P1.88 million in 1999.
- Small Business Corporation led in the drafting of the SME Development Plan approved by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

2003

- Loan approvals reached the P2 billion mark.
- Small Business Corporation participated in surpassing the P20 billion SULONG target.
- The 14th Asian Credit Supplementation Institution Confederation Conference, a gathering of credit guarantee institutions in the Asian region, was conducted.

2004

- Loan and credit guarantee approvals achieved a 110 percent accomplishment against target of P3.0 billion, a total of P3.3 billion has been lent to the micro, small and medium enterprises under various programs.
- External funding for its growing SME portfolio were sought. Small Business Corporation utilized P900.8 million from the P1 billion loan package from DBP's SME Fund. Negotiations were done for SME funds from Land Bank, ADB, KFW and IFAD.
- A net income of P62.441 million for the year 2004 was posted. It was more than 30 percent higher than the P56.413 million net income it recorded in the same period the previous year.
- The Equity Investment Program and the SME+ Financing Assistance for Business of Entrepreneurship Courses (SME+ FACTS) were established.

2005

- Successful negotiation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the Asian Development Bank or ADB (USD3 million), KFW (USD1.434 million) and IFAD (United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development or IFAD (USD5 million).
- Implementation of technical assistance project on credit scoring, financial management, product development, business development services and accreditation system.
- Re-alignment of programs and functions to the Financing and Guarantees Sector, which was renamed Financing Delivery Sector. The Loans and Guarantees Groups were renamed Development Financing Group and Guarantee and Micro-Financing Group, respectively.
- Creation of a credit policy unit and an audit committee of the Small Business Corporation Board of Directors.
- Redesigned of microfinance programs which resulted in an increase of 186 percent in the originations, from P46 million in 2004 to P132 million in 2005.
- Opening of desk offices in Isabela, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo provinces.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila (second from right) with Small Business Corporation chairperson and CEO Corazon Amelia C. Alonzo (second right) award Bank of Commerce, represented by its SVP for Credit Sector, Nicanor S. Diaso and Manager, Connie Regis, as one of the Corporation's outstanding bank partners during last year's awarding ceremony. Witnessing the awarding is Bonai P. Lagsa (extreme right), Small Business Corporation President & COO.

TOP BANK PARTNERS FOR 2006

Central SMEs Star 1
Wholesale Lending Program
PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
EQUITABLE PCI BANK

Most Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
ASIAPACIFIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
ASTROMETAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

Distinguished Partner
Wholesale Lending Program for SMEs
FIRST CONSOLIDATED BANK

Most Distinguished Partner
Guarantees Program
EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK

Most Distinguished Partner
Guarantees Program
BANK OF COMMERCE

SUCCESS STORY:

IRIS GARDEN Bicol

ZENAIDA, AN ARDENT PLANT lover, started selling plants as a hobby when she and her husband retired and moved to Legaspi City. This hobby turned into a serious business after she joined the Garden Show during the Boulevard Festival. Having sold all her plants on the very first day, she ordered orchids from Davao and sold them at the Garden Show. By the end of the month-long show, her earnings had reached P300,000.

Encouraged, Zenaida decided to sell flowers for All Saints' Day. She went to Cebu to buy the flowers, and returned home to sell them along the road in Old Albay District. From this desire, she ventured into a full-time business.

She searched for a bigger garden in Madalag, Daraga. After, bought different ornamental plants and began landscaping her garden, which she named after her daughter, Iris.

Zenaida Serrano an officer of the Garden Club and joined practically every Garden Show, reaching as far as Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur. Both Zenaida and her husband, Bing, joined the group in its observation tours. They had also rallied forth into flower arrangements, landscaping and other related activities. Landscaping, for which they charge from P5,000 to P1 million, comprises 25 percent of their business. The rest goes to reselling. Since gardens accessories are part of landscaping, they also ventured into the line of garden accessories, inspired by designs Zenaida got from her books.

She availed of a P750,000 loan from Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation, or Small Business Corporation, and used it to develop an additional 1,500 square meters of land for green houses, three water pumps, a computer and internet connection, and a new line of ornamental and flowering plants. She now uses the former area to raise plants and deal with clients and suppliers.

Iris Garden is now worth P9 million, from P6 million in 2003. The Garden is ablaze with different varieties of orchids, bromeliads, palms, bonsais and other ornamental plants. Last year Zenaida opened Iris Garden Boutique at Pacific Mall in Legaspi City where she sells cocunut home decors. She also has a stall at the Pacific Mall wherein where she displays her plants for sale or for taking orders. Presently she employs around 35 regular employees, and sometimes hires additional workers when work is upbeat.

"I'm glad I was able to avail of this loan," she said. "This time I really mean it when I say I can't ask for more. The Lord has recommended Bing and me well and we are very thankful for that."

German donor inks pact with DTI to help SMEs

GTZ to expand SME program outside Ormoc and Bacolod

By Rurrie W. Domingo

A GERMAN AID AGENCY HOISTED Wednesday a pact with the Department of Trade and Industry on the replicance of its support programs for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the Visayas.

Philippine-based officials of the German Technical Cooperation or GTZ said the memorandum of agreement with DTI covered the implementation of phase 2 of the SME Development for Sustainable Employment Programme (SDEP).

GTZ program manager Mathias Stellhaus said that through the program, the processing of new business applications in Ormoc had been cut by half.

SMEDSEP was launched in September 2003 and is expected to be completed in August of 2007.

Here on Wednesday, the Guidance for International Development Agency inked with DTI a separate MOA on the pilot phase of institutionalizing national and local SME development programs under the DTI's SME Development Plan 2004-2010.

The MOA was forged by CESO Senior Enterprise Accelerated Linkages project or Pearl 2 and DTI's Bureau of SME Development.

The pact involves the conduct of harmonization workshops in 79 provinces with the help of the Provincial SMED Council through the DTI regional offices.

The signing of the MOAs coincided with the announcement of 11 international development agencies that they were taking steps to obtain their separate programs and projects in the country could a global issue by harmonize a wider array of aid efforts for SMEs.

Aside from GTZ and CIDA, the agencies include Asian Development Bank, The Asia Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, KfW group, International Finance Corp. and International Labor Organization.

GTZ's Stellhaus said the idea to cut down on the number of consultations among representatives of at least 100 donor agencies and developing countries, who met in Rome in March 2005.

Stellhaus said the conventions came up with the so-named Paris Declaration, which enjoined those involved to make efforts to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation to achieve poverty reduction measures under the Millennium Development Goals.

"The Paris Declaration is based on the very simple idea that we can accomplish much more if we work together than if we work separately," she explained.

One of the SMEDSEP's major thrusts is to find ways to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start a business, particularly in the registration with the local government.

"The program's goal is to enable public and private institutions to create favorable business conditions in order to develop competitive and sustainable micro, small and medium enterprises in the Visayas," Dreain said.

INSULAR LIFE

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	
NAVPU PRICES (in Php)	
July 17, 2006	July 10, 2006
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Balanced Fund	1.142699	1.140894
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Overnight billionaire

THE SUPREME COURT HAS made a litigant an overnight billionaire, and Senator Santiago plans to watching him his oil-lawyer decision.

The case involves a 24-hectare piece of property right behind Ayala Heights in Quezon City. Some 50 years ago, the owners, the Manotoks, were effectively invalidated in favor of a town claimant.

The new claimant, a certain Teresita Marquez-Hernandez, said he is a daughter of the late Bonifacio L. Barque, confused in 1996, claiming that these were of the land title had been destroyed in the City Hall fire of 1988.

The long and the short of it is that, last December, the Supreme Court's First Division, then chaired by outgoing Chief Justice Hilario Davide, not only upheld the reconstitution of the Barque title, but also cancelled the Manotok title.

The First Division also modified the Land Registration Authority decision that it is up to the Regional Trial Court, as the LRA had insisted, to determine the issue of ownership of a disputed property as had been spelled out in PD 1529, the Property Registration Decree.

Ironically, the high court's decision also effectively set aside the latest batch of a 1964 decision by the same First Division, then chaired by Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, affirming the same 29 hectare property.

The 1988 case involving a spurious tenancy claim, inherited the findings of the Court of Appeals declaring that the Bohres property was donated by Jeronimo Manotok in 1946 to his right-children and was ungrabbable.

The 2004 decision even noted that the Manotok heirs in 1960 used the property as their capital contribution to form the still existing Manotok Realty Inc.

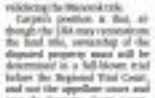
The Manotok heirs include Benito Go, the wife of banker Edward Go, and the family of retired general Hilario to Bonifacio, who flaws in the sprawling compound.

Nothing is known about Barque-Hernandez, except that she says is No. 9 Pluto St., Greenland Village, Bonifacio, Pasig City, address, and that her counsel is also Estop's counsel, former Vicesi Jose Flaminiano.

According to court records, the late Barque not only had a duplicate TCT but also real estate tax receipts and tax declarations. Her issuance of accumulated real estate taxes were allegedly paid in one lump sum, shortly before Bonifacio's 1996 death.

It is not immediately clear why, since 1946, when the Manotok patriarch transferred the Bohres land title to his heirs, Barque or his representative(s) never attempted to take legal or physical possession of any portion of the 24 hectare rolling land, and did it only in 1996.

In his dissenting opinion, which, incidentally, is longer than the opinion of the generous Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Carpio noted not only the flip-flopping findings of the Land Registration Authority but also the court of appeals, having reversed itself in an



earlier decision, "is not in a position to [declare] the Manotok title."

Carpio's position is that, although the LRA may sometimes be the land title, ownership of the disputed property must still be determined in a full-blown trial before the Regional Trial Court, and not the appellate court and now the Supreme Court, asserting "equity dictated as" over the case, "where the law," Carpio added, "has not granted such jurisdiction."

But the First Division is steadfast in its ruling, saying it would be "needlessly circuitous" to remand the case to the RTC, after the LRA and two Court of Appeals divisions had already ruled the Manotok title as invalid.

"Since in the case that factual findings of agencies exercising quasi-judicial functions are accorded not only respect but even finality, aside from the res judicata fact that this court is essentially not a trier of facts," said the First Division, as it again denied a reinvoked appeal from the Manotoks to bring the case for review by the entire Supreme Court.

"Without such authority the LRA would be a mere rubber agency clothed only with ministerial powers." To cap their experience, the Manotoks have filed an adverse claim with the LRA and Register of Deeds, although it is not clear if that can stop the sale of possession that Barque-Hernandez had already reportedly obtained.

Almost one-and-a-half years the size of the EIT Espeda campus, the contested property, at a conservative estimate of P5,000 a square meter, is easily worth P1.7 billion. Except for the dozen houses built by the Manotok heirs, the property remains a "rolling, thatched land," hardly changed since 1931, when the Manotok patriarch was said to have first laid claim on the land.

Money-go-round

• THE MANUEL L. Quezon University is up for sale, and the Manuel Elizalde said he has one of the prospective investors accepting the Quiapo-based school.

• THE PUBLICITY faced but denied running company Omico, is set to sign a joint-venture agreement with a Canadian firm to reopen a copper mine in Benguet.

Heard through the grapevine

SEPTUAGENARIAN businessman Pedro Aguirre on Monday filed a habeas corpus petition for his ailing wife, Josefina, whom he had not seen for more than a year, after one of their daughters took custody of Josefina and forbade Aguirre from visiting both of them.

But on Wednesday, the hearing did not happen as Mrs. Aguirre unfortunately passed away the day before.

[illegible] forbidden philanthropy [illegible]

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS *Friday*

Business Features Editor Margie Quiogue-Espino

Tapping the silver market

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

MUCH OF THE products and services including marketing and advertising campaigns in the recent decades have been aimed at young homeowners, trailblazers, the elderly in the previous generation (once stereotyped as low net-worth individuals dependent on their children's income).

Today, this has become antiquated belief. There is a huge segment of the senior market that has the financial means to remain independent in their latter years. Often, these seniors include those with higher educational attainment, considerable income, homes to their names and even print media.

The silver citizens represent a huge untapped but financially secure market segment. In fact, the pocket influence of the elderly market has become greater by the number of households with elderly members, giving rise to the senior settlement industry.

This elderly segment have been referred in various terms and publications as the mature, grey and silver citizen market.

Big change

A lot of the changes about the elderly market have to do with their lifestyle. With medical advancement, availability of modern supplements, a number of folks tend a healthy lifestyle and wear are of their time; many seniors are able to keep a productive work and family life even after 60 years old. Others in fact engage in several careers or pursue training after pursuing a second or third degree or enrolling to polytechnical courses.

Some prefer to travel to satisfy their intellectual pursuit.

Since the mid-1980s when this segment only first recognized, spot-on effort by seniors have started among publications. Most marketing acknowledge though, that the youngest of senior is over 55 years old. Based on a study of the senior citizens lifestyle published in the Journal of Consumer Marketing in 2001, researchers Siegfried, Hung-Baesso and Hee Goon John define the elderly market "as people of 55 years of age and older who are consumers of products and services for seniors."

Increasing demographics

Thus, this market's disposable income and higher discretionary spending are whetting for appetites of marketers but the increasing demographic numbers behind this segment are becoming an even more appealing reason to target them.

The projected growth rates of senior citizens are evident in many regions in the United States and data.

In 2000, it was estimated that there were 35 million americans aged 65 or above, estimated at 12 percent of the population. This is projected to rise to 50 million in 2030 and 70 million in 2050 based on a report made by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging related statistics back in 2000.

In a separate data gathered by the datas Demographics and published in Market-ing's "Holding up Half of the Sky," a book authored Dr. Fern Brodrick Weng, the gray market is said to spend a lot.

Based on Weng's assessment, the elderly still be the home gaining household expenses across data, with an average growth rate of 3.9 percent across 12 countries including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

With more discretionary income than at any other lifestage, the elderly market remains virtually untapped with underserved and overspending.

In the US, seniors conduct 50 percent of the net worth of $13 trillion of the total wealth. The median net wealth of households headed by the 55- to 64-year-olds peaked at $120,000, those headed by 75 and over at $93,000 while households headed by those below 55 is a low $36,000.

Further, more research on the senior market reveal that the 55-65+ market uses twice as much as the 25-44, [illegible] doubles the discretionary spending of the younger market, and 3 medical expenses, while goods (appliances and furniture) that come with new real estate investments, new cars, most recent offers and literally buy anything on the market. Seniors with and signal a better quality of life for them.

In data, Weng reveals that the elderly women, who outnumber and outlive men in Asia, have substantial discretionary spending power including personal care including cosmetics, beauty salon and related treatments, recreation and entertainment including travel, playing golf and going to concerts. Household purchases include home improvements and white lines, healthcare and transport and communication. In some markets that include Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, China, Thailand and the Philippines, the elderly women that more discretionary spending power than younger women.

Talking to seniors

Most marketers have yet to learn to talk to the senior, lucky recognized as a viable but untapped economic segment. However, a number of elderly research trend some vital insights that can be used in communicating to the senior consumer.

1. Seniors do not think about their age in general. Unless extremely tired or depressed, elder people do not think of themselves as old. Advertising that tells to the silver citizen's senior lifestyle rather than to or about his age are preferred.

Some few pennies more than $23 million in advertising that attempts to make Steve's eyeclothes, digital cameras and other high end gadgets appealing to the senior. One ad showed a grandmother in an underwater cage happily taking moving images of sharks in her camcorder. In fat, camcorder sales have been on a high digit double growth.

In contrast, Heinz introduced pureed senior food because out of observing all over with chewing problems having leather baby food. The product failed miserably as the elderly child were from the product perceived to symbolize old age weakness and helplessness.

2. Capitalizing on the elderly social consciousness is often more appealing. This includes relationships between peers and family members. A pitch that appeal role-play more shows the elderly as accompanied and not a dependent.

One of the more successful advertising that has won Clio advertising recognition is Australia's red nose advertising campaign that showed a group of [illegible] seniors on stage who unknowingly happen to be the same group of elderly back. It tugs.

3. A 1994 Honda in report reveals that this senior market values offbeat on advertisements that impressed a mousetrap elder people. The same study reveals that about 39 percent of all people over age 55 say that "they like to try something different that no one else has."

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'What sales promos form the repeat purchase habit?'

Q: We have two questions. First, what sales promo effort have proven to be effective trigger to consumer repeat purchases? Second, what usually makes them effective as repeat purchase drivers?

A: Here's our straight answer to your first question although we'd like to qualify mixed lately after. Our research and experience suggest that "coupons and loyalty programs" (like Pizza Hut's Point Card program) and "pack-at" or "in-pack" promo, premium and coupon are good repeat purchase drivers.

Continuity programs have gained this reputation because of their promo objectives that are focused on repeat usage and patronage (rather than between of their actual delivery on the stated and repeat purchase objective).

We are quick to make this qualification because Robert Blattberg (the thing being followed professor who has spent a lot of time studying sales promo) research shows that potentially any successful promo activity can perform or can be made to perform more. If not all of the 10 major responses of sales promotion. (See our past two columns dated June 30 and July 6. These are: acquisition, trial, repeat, search engines like Google.com, keyword: Marketing Rx.)

Price-off promos

Even the much-cherished discount or price-off can drive repeat purchase. If you consider the second purchase as already repeat purchase, then that's easy for discount to trigger.

Of course, most experienced marketers look at the second purchase as not a true repeat purchase but as a trial purchase. Similarly with the third purchase; that's a "re-trial" purchase.

We're told that on the second purchase, the consumer is just curious if what she bought in the first trial purchase will stay the same in quality in her second purchase. If it does, then in the third trial purchase initiated purchase, the consumer starts a final check and validation. It is only on the fourth purchase (i.e., third "repeat" purchase) that the consumer becomes pre-conditioned that the product is worth becoming habitual" or "loyalty" attachment.

This means then that even for the third repeat purchase (that is, the fourth purchase) a third repeat purchase), sales promotion can be effective. For example, when embedded in a contest, [illegible] again even and highly collected discount or price-off on the second-feature repeat purchase drive.

Here, it is effective owing to a prospective third repeat buying consumer something like this: "The database tells us that you've just completed your third purchase of our brand. For your next and fourth purchase, we'd like to reward you with a special discount."

So it depends on how you are positioning and how to turn your consumers are positioning your choice promo activities.

This insight brings us to your second question. What exactly makes a sales promo effective as a repeat purchase driver? How does sales promo work in driving repeat purchase?

Positioning

Marketers are indeed that take-makes your sales promo effective in driving consumer repeat purchase, depends most on how consumers position your sales promo than on how you (as marketers) position it.

In our example of the discount embedded to a continuity program, the marketer recommend the third offer to as a reward. If the target consumers accept the discount as a worthwhile reward, and therefore converge with your positioning of it, then we will witness a successful and effective repeat purchase inducing promo.

In our example of the participated on repeat purchase inducing promo spoke to us during survey interviews about their position as well as negative positioning responses. Here's a quick summary of those positive conditioning responses:

1. The consumers' positioning of the sales promo as a reward.

When your consumers see your offered discount for a repeat purchase as a reward that's high enough and worthwhile for giving your product a repeat buying, then it first joins the decision set, whether thinks that we said "as that point."

Positive. We asked those consumers about their next repeat purchase and their reason for repeating. The group said something like this: "If it's not the good, that I'll buy it again." Here's [illegible] how both consumers have formed from their usage experience with the promoted product and are on their way to a repeat buying habit.

Negative. However, another group said this: "It is often another promo, from TV, buy again." Obviously, consumers have built no loyalty to buy again more because of the promo than because of the product or the experience with it. That's obviously negative.

What you want to happen is that the first group would be significantly greater than the second group.

Here's how built consumers have formed from their usage experience with the promoted product and are on their way to a repeat buying habit.

Negative. However, another group said this: "It is often another promo, from TV, buy again." Obviously, consumers have built no loyalty to buy again more because of the promo than because of the product or the experience with it. That's obviously negative.

What you want to happen is that the first group would be significantly greater than the second group.

Here's how built consumers have formed from their usage experience with the promoted product and are on their way to a repeat buying habit.

In contrast, in a high involvement product like a car or a mobile phone, there are consumers who perceive the trial or the repeat purchase carefully. That this brand of car bought is on promo does not lower the kind of influence that it has on the purchase of a detergent. The repeat purchase decision depends more on the experiencing of the product than on the sales promo like the silent other or his accessory pieces. Of course, there are those who will say after the test drive, "We wonder they gave offering a large rebate! It's a lemon drive." In the impact on repeat purchase can go to either positive or negative direction.

The practical question for you here is this: "Do you know if your product is low or high involvement?" To know for sure is to include this question in your sales promo effectiveness research.

In whatever repeat purchase takes place in this case is because of the promo and not because of the product. Once the contest is gone, so will the repeat purchase against purchase is therefore not sustainable.

How will you know if the perception is true with your promoted brand? In your sales promo effectiveness research, ask the questions on this likely scenario: perception and experience.

1. The consumers' positioning of the product as promo is low versus high involvement.

Our research is beginning to show us that when prompted by a sales promo, consumers are more ready to repeat their purchase of a product that is low involvement. One such product that has been low involvement for a good number of years is most Filipino consumers is detergent. The habit of buying the same detergent brand over and over again in often comes from its convenience and not because of loyalty.

In a low involvement product like a detergent, the consumer does not have the time nor does she want to exert the effort to think through the repeat buying decision. Forming a habit is her way of coping with the limited choice spaces in her mind. Any sales promo that makes [illegible] promo makes this consumer thinking is low about to tend to hasten the repeat brand purchase habit.

In contrast, in a high involvement product like a car or a mobile phone, there are consumers who perceive the trial or the repeat purchase carefully. That this brand of car bought is on promo does not lower the kind of influence that it has on the purchase of a detergent. The repeat purchase decision depends more on the experiencing of the product than on the sales promo like the silent other or his accessory pieces. Of course, there are those who will say after the test drive, "We wonder they gave offering a large rebate! It's a lemon drive." In the impact on repeat purchase can go to either positive or negative direction.

The practical question for you here is this: "Do you know if your product is low or high involvement?" To know for sure is to include this question in your sales promo effectiveness research.

Overall then, when do those three conditions bring us to giving a decision to our answers to your second question? What's the Marketing Rx?

Here it is. For your sales promo that we aimed at getting a repeat purchase response from your customers, get to the bottom line or "net" output. Here's how to find out what makes them effective as repeat purchase drivers.

1. Find out the net result for the repeat purchase, is it because of the satisfying experience with the product the consumers tried or because of another promo? If it's because of the product, then that's a plus in favor of a sustained repeat purchase. If it's because of another promo, then that's a minus and you probably won't sustain your product's repeat purchase.

2. Find out if consumers call promos and associate your sales promo as "cheapening" the brand and its product quality. If they do, then that's a minus and you probably won't sustain the repeat purchase. If they do not, then that's a plus toward a sustained repeat purchase.

3. Find out if consumer consider your product as low involvement or high involvement. If low involvement, then that's a plus for your repeat purchase inducing promo (only the consumer toward forming a repeat purchase habit for the brand. If high involvement and consumers have their repeat purchase decision on product experience, then that is a plus because your product will sustain the repeat purchase. But if the high involvement is accompanied by a negative attitude toward the sales promo, then that's a minus for sustaining the repeat purchase.

Based on the preceding, we can summarize "net-net" to our answer to your second question.

If your get a "net" plus, then the preceding three considerations, your Pet-ed status pattern will more likely sustain your higher than baseline sales patterns.

If a "net" minus, the opposite that's found applies.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at Marketing@pdi.com.ph or text us at 0919-314-7412. God bless!

Dr. Neil Roberto's
& Jeff Roberto

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Dahlmora Coffee Shop (All Branches)
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Fun Nuts Donuts (All Branches)
Goldilocks (All Branches)
Greenwich Food Corporation (All Branches)
Jollibee Foods Corporation (All Branches)
Kenny Rogers Roasters Inc. (All Branches)
Pancake (All Branches)
Red Ribbon Bakeshop Inc. (All Branches)
Seattle's Best Coffee (All Branches)
Shakey's (Int'l Family Food Service) (All Branches)
Tokyo - Tokyo (All Branches)
Yellow Cab (All Branches)

C. HOTELS
Cebu Marriott Hotel
Century Park Sheraton
Coco Beach Resort
Heritage Hotel
Holiday Inn Resort (Cebu)
Hotel Intercontinental Manila
Hotel Nikko Manila Garden
Hyatt Regency Manila
Hyatt Casino Manila
Manila de Oriental Manila
Manila Diamond Hotel
Manila Pavilion
New World Hotel
Pan Pacific Hotel
Richmonde Hotel
Shangri-La Edsa Plaza
Shangri-La Hotel Manila
Shangri-La Mactan (Cebu City)
Sofitel Harbour Hotel (Cebu City)
Sofitel Philippine Plaza
The Peninsula Manila
Westin Philippine Plaza

D. MUSIC LOUNGES/KTV
23rd Street Music Cafe (Cainta)
Bagaberde Grill & Restaurant (Pasig & Roxas Blvd)
Cocos Cabana Bar (Makati)
Club Asia, Inc. (Makati)
Club Khush (Roxy, Mandaluyong)
Café Havana (Malate)
Café Havana (Greenbelt)
Conspiracy (Shoppes Avenue)
Cowboy Grill (All Branches)
Decadent Bar (Quezon City)
Decades Bar (Metro Walk, Pasay City)
Dish (Quezon City)
El Pino ante-Sala Fronts Restaurant)
Escalet Escalet (West)
Feed Back (Quezon City)
Gorgeous Grill (Makati)
Hard Rock Cafe (Makati)
In The Mood Dance Bar (Makati)
JD Family KTV (Makati City)
JD Family KTV (Quezon City)
Infinity Club (Makati)
Kawaler King (All Branches)
Kissera Bar (All Branches)
Lufthaus (Bellenchwil) Timog
Makiki Entertainment Inc. (Red Box) Makati
Mark's Bistro and Bar (Makati)
Metro Bar and Restaurant (Quezon City)
Mugen Bar (Metro Walk)
Music Match Family KTV (Tomas Morato)
Music Plaza 21 Inc. KTV (Makati City)
Music Plaza 21 Inc. KTV (Quezon City)
Music Plaza 21 Inc. KTV (Nouse Blvd)
Pablo Point Inc. (Cubao & Edsa)
Pablo Point Inc. (Antipolo Morato, Katipunan)
Pio Bonos Bar (Metro Walk)
Popular Music Studio (All Branches)
Punchline (Quezon City)
Rydbyn's (Tomas Morato & Cebu)
S&M Disco (Metro Walk)
Savannah Moon (Edsa)
Soundstage (Cainta)
Starways KTV (Tomas Morato)
Sutherlite (Makati)
Tavern on the Square (Makati)
Tea Villas Inc. (Tea Mania) All Branches
The Library (Manila)
The 70's Bistro (Quezon City)
Watering Hole (Edsa)
Worlds of Fun Amusement
World Music Rooms - Family KTV (Greenhills)
Virgin Cafe Inc. (Quezon City)
Zirkoh (Quezon City)
Zirkoh (Quezon City & Greenhills)

E. RESTAURANTS
Annabel's Fine Dining (Timonier)
Ang Hang Restaurant
Antoinette (All Branches)
Bianca's Vindaloo (Makati)
Bistro 1771, Inc. (Malate Manila)
Bistro 1771, Inc. (Makati)
Bistro Americano (TGI Friday's - All Branches)
Bistro Bay Restaurant (Dumaguete)
Bite Restaurant (Manila)
Brazilian Restaurant (All Branches)
Bubba Gump (Makati City)
Bubble Gang Toppings (Katipunan)
Burgoo Restaurant (Gateway Araneta)
Burgoo Restaurant (Makati)
Burgoo Restaurant (Power Plant)
Burgoo Restaurant (Promenade Greenhills)
Burgoo Restaurant (Quezon City)
Cafe Adriatico (1900 Makati)
Cafe Adriatico Remedios
Café Lupa (Makati & Tagaytay)
Campana Ristorante (Makati)
Chateau 1771 (Makati)
China Bistro (Libis)
Chinese Room (Makati City)
CIRCLE INC. (All Branches)
CLASTS (All Branches)
Dampigan Restaurant (Quezon City)
Dencio's Restaurant (All Branches)
Don Antonio's Restaurant (All Branches)
Embassy Super Club (Makati City)
Good Bar & Restaurant (Megamall)
Gerry's Grill (All Branches)
Guerra Dampigan (Quezon City/Ayala)
Kalibar's Restaurant (Libis)
Kalibar's Restaurant (Gateway)
Kalibar's Restaurant (Greenhills)
Jade Vine Restaurant (UN Avenue)
Josephine's Restaurant (Tagaytay)
Kamayan (All Branches)
Le Souffle Restaurant & Wine Bar (Makati)
Le Souffle Restaurant & Wine Bar (Global City)
Little Asia (Tomas Morato & Promenade)
Macao Restaurant (Quezon City)
Max's Group Inc.
Max's Quezon City Inc.
Max's Restaurant Group, Inc.
Max Pancit Luning Inc.
Max's Central Luzon Inc. (All Branches)
MET Restaurant (formerly Maxim's Restaurant)
Mexicali Restaurant (All Branches)
National Sports Grill (Greenbelt)
Oakwood Premier Restaurant (Makati)
Onanna Italian Restaurant
Ocean Boy (Ortigas & Cubao)
Pablo Guerrero's (Pablo Bar)
Pablo Guerrero's (Malate)
Penang Hill Restaurant Inc. (Promenade Greenhills)
Pendre's (Makati)
Spirit Cafe (Quezon City)
Sabuki (All Branches)
Sabe Sun - (Mandaluyong)
Shanx (All Branches)
Surge (Quezon City)
Tide Bar Cafe (Malate & Ortigas)
Taco Bell (Gateway & J. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue)
Taste Armatos (L.K. Group) Eastwood
Teak Bistro Bar (Backwell)
Temple Bar & Restaurant (Makati City)
Triple X Express (Mandaluyong)
Zamboanga Restaurant

F. MALLS/RETAIL STORES/SPA/CLINIC
Ace Hardware
ACE Hardings - St. Francis Square
Ayala Alabang Town Center
Ayala Center Cebu City
Ayala Land, Inc. (Makati)
Bello Hardware Group
Cinnabags (MEI)
Daily Print
Factory Sales Outlet
Fedsted & Aung (All Branches)
Gift Gate (Glorietta)
Globe Telecom Wireless Centers (All Branches)
Golden ABC (Pennhouse) All Branches
Handyman (All Branches)
Hang Ten (All Branches)
Harbor Depot Home Store (All Branches)
Int'l Factory (all branches)
Marks & Spencer (All Branches)
Market! Market! (Global City)
Marie France Syntheses Facial Care/Skin Lab (All Branches)
National Bookstore (All Branches)
Our Home (All Branches)
Ossaga (All Branches)
People Are People (All Branches)
Pipay Commercial, Inc. (Mandaluyong)
Profitown (Binondo)
Powerbreeder (All Branches)
Rustan's Specialty Concepts Inc. (Debenhams Boutique)
Smile to Style (Makati)
Shoe Mart (All Branches)
Sunny Land (All Branches)
Toy Kingdom (All Branches)
Wiki Gents, Inc. - Lyceria Spinning Studio (Katipunan)
Watsons (All SM Branches)
Weightless Center & Body Paint (all branches)

G. VENUES
Cultural Center of the Philippines
Music Museum Group Inc.
Plaza Park
PHILCOM Casino (All Branches)

H. CABLE OPERATORS/ TV NETWORKS
ABS-CBN Int'l TriaTOM, Inc.
Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC-5)
Bisaya Power TV Corporation/Skyline TV Corporation
Cable Vision Systems Corporation
Cacnews TV Corporation
Charles TV Corporation
Destiny Cable
GMA NETWORK, INC.
GOA Cable TV
Jade Cable TV Systems Inc.

I. FM and AM STATIONS (Metro Manila & Provincial)
ABC Development Corporation
ABS-CBN Network, Inc.
Audiovisual Communications, Inc.
Bureau of Broadcast Services
(PNB Broadcasting Corporation)
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
(Idea Broadcasting)
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
(Voice of Hope) (Iligan)
Cebu Broadcasting Company
Christian Era Broadcasting Service, Inc.
Community Media Corporation
Eagle Broadcasting Corporation
Eastern Broadcasting Corporation
Far East Broadcasting Company
GMA Network, Inc.
GV Broadcasting System
Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation
Manila Broadcasting Company
Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation
Nation Cloves Broadcasting Corporation
Pacific Broadcasting System
People's Broadcasting Network
Philippine Broadcasting Corporation
Philippine Broadcasting Service
Progressive Broadcasting Network
R.T. Broadcast Specialist Philippines
Radio Mindanao Network, Inc.
Radio Philippines Network, Inc. (RPN9)
Radio Veritas Global Broadcasting System
RGMA Network, Inc.
Solid South Broadcasting System
Southern Broadcasting Network
Subic Broadcasting Corporation
Swara Sug Media Corporation
Tagbilaran Broadcasting System
Triad Pan Radio TV Broadcast Network
Ultimate Entertainment
Ultrasonic Broadcasting Systems Inc.
UM Broadcasting Network
United Broadcasting Corporation
Vanguard Radio Network
Visnorte Broadcasting

J. ADVERTISING AGENCIES / MOVIE PRODUCERS
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation
ABS-CBN Film Productions, Inc.
Ace Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising
Focus Entertainment, Inc.
GMA Network, Inc.
Harrison Communications
Jeriemvillasis
Lotus, Inc.
M-Zet TV Production, Inc.
PolArch Manila, Inc.
Star Cinema Productions, Inc.
Viva Productions, Inc.
McCann-Erickson Philippines
Regal Advertising Inc.
Campaigns & Grey
Hemisphere Leo Burnett
Image Dimension
J. Walter Thompson
Ogilvy & Mather (Phils.)
PAL Comm., Inc.
SLS Advertising
Vision Works
Mangold Commodities Corp.

K. OTHERS / MUSIC PROVIDERS / CONTENT PROVIDERS
ABS-CBN Interactive Biz, Inc.
Audio Emage / Inc Adidas Philippines, Inc. (Solidri)
Audition / Inc Nokia (Ikaw nudes)
CAVS Multimedia, Inc. (Built in chips)
Digital Music Corporation (DMC Website for Globe Ringtones)
Entertainment Gateway Group
Information Gateway Inc.
Jollibee Foods Corporation (Jollibee)
Music in My Ears (Shangri-La Mall - Edsa)
New Wave, Inc.
Omni Source International
Playnetwork (for Starbucks branches)
Store-Ads, Inc. (for Rustan's, Landmark & Shopwise outlets)

(CONT. K. OTHERS / MUSIC PROVIDERS / CONTENT PROVIDERS
Video-Vox Corporation (Magic Mic)
Wireless Services, Inc. (for Globe Ringtones)

L. CONCERT PRODUCERS
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation
Acoustic Gold Production
ALD Events International Inc.
Ava Productions, Inc.
Aviani Events Directors, Inc.
Bamboo Organ Foundation, Inc.
BCP Vanguard
Big Fish! International Inc.
Candid Records
Carousel Productions, Inc.
Chris Learning Asia
Concertos, Inc.
Creative Programs (a subsidiary of ABS-CBN)
De La Salle University
Denisa Phils
DJ. Manila
DSL Productions
E. Rodriguez Records
E-Talent
Eventscapade
Eventscape Prod. & Consultancy, Inc.
Fame Smart Communications, Inc.
Fearless Times
GMA Network, Inc.
Golden Cuerdo Events Mngmt & Mktg Corp.
Headline Concepts, Inc.
IBK. (1)
JMC Clothing
JLSS Production Exponents
Kasna Grill
Kick Teleksyts
Live Artists Production, Inc.
Manila Philharmonic Orchestra
Manna Int'l., Inc.
Market Bridges
Maximedia International, Inc.
Music Television
Mustard, Inc.
Newmakers Promotions & Publications
On Q 30 Production
Opulux Production, Inc.
PMN
Philippopera Foundation
Real Talent & Management
Redrum Music
Renaissance Int'l Corp.
San Miguel Foundation Ayala Land
Select Talent, Inc.
Shepherd's Voice Publishing
Solar Entertainment Corp.
Sony BMG Music Entertainment (Phils.), Inc.
Spooky Productions
St. James - CCBR
St. Therese's School
Stages Productions Specialists, Inc.
Starmedia Entertainment Corporation
Steve Orosa Productions
Sunlight Event Management
The Music Source, Inc.
The Theatre, Inc.
Ultimate Entertainment, Inc.
Unigroup, Inc.
United Multiart Production, Inc.
Venice Bench Industries
Viva Artists Agency, Inc.

M. RECORD COMPANIES/MECHANICAL RIGHTS
Alak Music Int'l Inc.
Alpha Music Corporation
Business Arts, Inc.
EBYNC
EMI Philippines, Inc.
Galaxy Records
Global Content Center
Ivory Records Corporation
MCA Music, Inc.
Mariposa Productions
Philtan Foundations, Inc.
Pulens Records Studio
Redstreet Prods. & Management, Inc.
RGMA Marketing & Productions, Inc.
Sony BMG Music Entertainment Phils.
Star Recording, Inc.
Taipan International Church
Universal Records
UP Singing Ambassadors
Wave Music Corporation
Viva Records Corporation

FILSCAP Office: 1305 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines 1102 Tel: (632) 721-3903 / 721-3788 / 411-1115 / 410-8753 Fax: (632) 722-9490

Panasonic, Imax for the ultimate movie experience

ELECTRONICS GIANT PANASONIC has been chosen by Imax Corp to be its partner in providing the ultimate movie experiences in the Philippines.

This is the fifth time that Panasonic, with its state-of-the-art technology and complete line of audio-video products, was tapped by Imax to serve as its home entertainment partner in its giant theaters. Panasonic and Imax have been scrutinizing their forces for the past decade, beginning in Sydney, Australia, and moving on to other Imax theaters in Thailand, Poland and the United States.

Rene T. Almeda, president of Panasonic Philippines, said the entire Panasonic family is proud to have been chosen by Imax for its first ever partner in the country.

"This is clear proof of the trust and confidence of Imax on the Panasonic brand, being a giant in home entertainment," Almeda said. "Panasonic complements Imax because of its superiority and leadership in the market."

According to Almeda, Imax is the "SM, Everything" of out-of-home movie viewing and it is Panasonic's great honor to be chosen by IMAX as its partner from among the many brands in home entertainment.

"We have the most complete line of products that can give the ultimate home theater experience," he said.

The Imax Theater at the SM Mall of Asia is without doubt the ultimate in movie viewing in the Philippines, with crystal-clear images as big as an eight-story building and 'surround' digital sound emanating from 44 sub-base speakers for 12,000 seats of power.

In a preview of this experience, moviegoers can have a sample of what to see and hear inside the theater through several Panasonic plasma screens at the Imax Theater lobby. The moviegoers can have a glimpse of how superior the Imax technology is through the Panasonic screens, some of them as wide as 65 inches.

In the future, Almeda said Panasonic customers would have exclusive privileges at the Imax Theater as part of the Panasonic-Imax tieup.

In the meantime, Almeda is inviting all Filipinos to experience for themselves the magic of Imax with the ongoing screening of the movie "Superman Returns", the first 3-fully sound live action film to be shot purely on Imax 3D format.

"Many of us dream of flying. Now, with the Imax technology we can experience the joy and thrill of flying like Superman," the Panasonic boss said.

PANASONIC Philippines president Rene T. Almeda (2nd from right) shakes hands with engineer Ric Camalligan, then vice president of the SM Megamalls. With them are Jon Pattterson of Imax Theatre (left) and Hiroyuki Ikeda, Panasonic's sales and marketing director.

AGSB prepares 40th anniversary activities

THE ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF Business (AGSB), with campuses in Rockwell Center, Makati and in FPJ de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, is preparing a host of activities in celebration of its 40th anniversary this year.

On July 27, the school will host a Business Leadership Forum featuring compelling talks on the forum's theme: "Take a Chance on Ourselves, Invest in the Philippines". Speakers for this event are Finance Secretary Cary Teves, PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan and Grand Kalinga awardee Gawad Tony Meloto. The event will be held at the multi-purpose area of the Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) Building in Rockwell Center, with media coordinating to AGSB's all campus sites in Cebu, Sta. Rosa, and Subic.

To culminate the week's anniversary program, exhibits of photos of AGSB history, its current library and memorabilia items will be on display at the atrium of the APS Building in Rockwell Center starting July 27. The exhibit will offer visitors a glimpse of AGSB's historic development as one of the country's premier graduate business schools. Tours will also be conducted on Aug. 5 and 6; 10 and 11; 17 and 18 and 24 and 25 for visitors to be oriented on AGSB programs and to view the library and facilities.

This November, a Seafarers and Alumni Night will be held to bring together students, faculty and alumni for an evening of fun and celebration. During this event, the school will present the AGSB Outstanding Alumni Award to its recognition of alumni who have shown exemplary performance in various fields. In line with this, the school has called on all alumni to update records and contact information as it assembles a special 2005 edition of its alumni directory. An alumni record update form is available for download at www.gsb.ateneo.edu. Current information may be submitted via e-mail to the Registrar at agsb-lib@agsb.ateneo.edu or faxed to 893-7540. Drop boxes are also available at the 2nd floor of the Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) Building in Rockwell Center.

As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, the AGSB will also launch various publications including a commemorative book, a case book on business leadership and ethics, and a book on health. With the assistance of students, alumni, faculty and staff, it also hopes to be able to raise funds to support the construction of 10 houses for the underprivileged under Gawad Kalinga.

PISM new president, 1st GMM

GABRIEL O.C. OCAMPO, FAMAE/VP for logistics, procurement and administration of Digital Wireless Philippines (Sun Cellular), is the new president of the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), a non-stock, non-profit organization of supply management professionals from top 1000 corporations. Prior to the presidency, Ocampo served the Institute as 2nd vice president and treasurer. The first general membership meeting and induction of new officers is set today at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel featuring officer-elect Emily Abrera, chair emeritus of McCann World Group, as the also-drawn for insight on leadership. Other elected officers are: 1st VP Angel U. Calvelo Jr. (CPM of Del Monte Philippines); 2nd VP David C. Gerbis, CPM of Geneva Mining Corp); 3rd VP Lourdes V. Bandalan of Pharmaceutical Industrial Plant & Harvey of Manila Transport Systems Corp; and corporate secretary Vince L. Luna, CPM, EDSA of International Rice Research Institute.

Melatonin an all-natural nightcap

RICHARD T. T2 FEAR-OLD DISHWASHER Master T, 52-year-old real-estate agent, Lincoln D, 34-year-old assistant executive who travels frequently and Laura H, 52-year-old housewife who is a self-confessed television addict. What do these people have in common? They used to have sleeping problems and have benefited a lot from taking melatonin supplements every night.

Melatonin is a natural hormone that regulates sleep, buring daylight, the pineal gland in the brain produces an important neurotransmitter called serotonin. At nightfall, serotonin is a chemical that relays messages between nerve cells.1 But at night, the pineal gland stops producing serotonin and instead makes melatonin. The melatonin release helps trigger sleep.

The production of melatonin starts around 9 p.m. and peaks at 3 a.m. Light exposure is stopped in such that the body produces more melatonin in a completely dark room.Hence a dimly lit one.

Melatonin supplementation appears to be helpful for people whose natural sleep cycle has been disturbed, such as travelers suffering from jet lag. Melatonin may also be helpful in various other sleep disorders.

Melatonin secretion decreases as we get older. Scientists believe this may be the reason older people have problems sleeping and they have shorter hours of sleep.

Health experts are also more serious in studying the possibility of melatonin's potential benefit in controlling the lifespan. In test tube and animal experiments, researchers have found that melatonin protects cells, strengthens the immune system, slows the growth of some tumors, and protects the heart and blood vessels. Tests with laboratory mice suggest that melatonin might also reduce the effects of aging and enhance sexual function, but scientists caution that these results are very preliminary and still not conclusive. Experts agree though that the preliminary findings are exciting and promising.

Scientists have shown that in tests on both rats and mice, melatonin caused a significant 20-percent increase in the lifespan of these experimental animals. There are, however, no human studies to support this conclusion, but if a similar effect is proven in humans, this could translate into an additional 15 to1.4 years of additional lifespan.

Experts believe that if melatonin does allow one to live longer and healthier, it is likely due to melatonin's benefit of reducing free radical damage, stimulating an aging immune system, protecting the cardiovascular system, preserving a youthful circadian rhythm, and stimulating the production of growth hormone.

Thanner International, which distributes Melatonin-T capsules locally, recommends it to help balance sleep and sleep pat tag, without the hangover or side effects of prescription sleeping pills. For those with any concealed medical condition they should consult their physicians first before taking melatonin.

Thanner Melatonin-T is available as an over-the-counter supplement in Mercury Drugs and other leading drug store nationwide.

SAN ANDRES BUKID TODA'S DAY OF FUN IN LAGUNA

Members and families of the San Andres Bukid Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association held their first ever family get-together April 4 at the Bel-Air resort in Villaja in Pansol, Laguna. Shown during the fiesta affair are Jerry Ruiz, Darwin Mendoza, Aries Pardigan, Edwin Dimalibot, Georgie Polintan, Archie Bagolor, Eric Tapetia, Jonathan Catalla, Alfredo Estrajero, Jonathan Bermawa, Pow Fuerte, Ogie Villarreal, and Junior.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

A. NON-TAKING AND NON-CAREER (NEW)

1. Computer Programmer II (SG 11) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-CO-NPRO-11-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. Experience: 2 years of relevant experience. Training: 8 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional). Physical Requirements: Fit

2. Computer Programmer II (SG 11) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-CO-NPRO-11-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. Experience: 1 year of relevant experience. Training: 8 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional). Physical Requirements: Fit

3. Computer Operator III (SG 11) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-CO-NPRO-11-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in college or high school graduate with relevant vocational/ trade courses. Experience: 2 years in relevant experience. Training: 8 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional). Physical Requirements: Fit

4. Project Evaluation Officer I (SG 11) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-CO-NPRO-11-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. Experience: None required. Training: None required. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional / Technical) and Eligibility.

5. Computer Operator II (SG 9) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-CO-NPRO-9-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in College or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/ trade courses. Experience: 1 year of relevant experience. Training: 4 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional / Technical) and Eligibility. Physical Requirements: Fit

6. Project Evaluation Assistant (SG 6) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-NPA-1-1998

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to college. Experience: 1 year of relevant experience. Training: 8 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional / Technical) and Eligibility. Physical Requirements: Fit

B. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) 1

1. Stenographic Reporter III (SG 11) (1 position)
Item No. DENR-PIAB-SR-III-1998

Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college. Experience: Two (2) years of relevant experience. Training: Eight (8) hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional / Technical) and Eligibility.

Applicants should submit within two (2) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following documents:

1) Letter stating the position applied for
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212)
3) Transcript of Records
4) Two Recent Photos or CSC Certificate of Eligibility
5) Certificate of Eligibility
6) Certificate of Relevant Training attended
7) Service Records or Certification from previous/present employers, stating the duties and responsibilities of the position and corresponding period of time and salary received (duties of equivalent)
8) "Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for applicants with government employment only)
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant and any employer, either private or government, that he/she is not related by consanguinity or affinity to any employee with the fifth degree of the incumbent.

* Where employees are filing, the documents must be certified as true copies by the person having custody thereof or by the Head of Agency/Office/Unit or Personnel Management Officer in accordance with the above-cited.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Fixed Wireless GSM and GPRS Modem
(Reference No.: PMO-NGCS-03-0002)

1. The National Transmission Corporation, South Metro Manila (TRANSCO) Metro Manila Project Management Office, through the Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board of Directors for calendar year 2004 intends to apply the sum of Php 1,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Fixed Wireless GSM and GPRS Modem. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The TRANSCO Metro Manila Project Management Office now invites bids for the above Supply and Delivery. Delivery of the Modems is required within one (01) calendar days from receipt of Approved Purchase Order. The Supplier is required to have a minimum of three (3) years experience in the supply of the same or similar equipment.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification process as stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens and private firms as described in Section 5 of RA 9184 and its IRR, subject to the applicable provisions of the Agreement on Government Procurement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bidding documents as specified in Section 17.1 of the IRR.

4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from TRANSCO Metro Manila Project Management Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders starting July 26, 2004 to August 02, 2004 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00). The method of payment will be in Cash. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that the interested bidder shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat at the address below on August 02, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (LC) issued by a commercial bank	Php 20,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 15,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 25,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (20% of ABC)	Php 200,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on August 02, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Attn: Engr. ARMANDO V. ZOSA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 3-PHASE MULTIFUNCTION METERING EQUIPMENT
(Reference No.: PMO-NGCS-03-0001)

1. The National Transmission Corporation, South Metro Manila (TRANSCO) Metro Manila Project Management Office, through the Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board of Directors for calendar year 2004 intends to apply the sum of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of 3-Phase Multifunction Metering Equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The TRANSCO Metro Manila Project Management Office now invites bids for the above Supply and Delivery. Delivery of the Meters is required within three (03) calendar days from receipt of Approved Purchase Order. The Supplier is required to have a minimum of three (3) years experience in the supply of the same or similar equipment.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification process as stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens and private firms as described in Section 5 of RA 9184 and its IRR, subject to the applicable provisions of the Agreement on Government Procurement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bidding documents as specified in Section 17.1 of the IRR.

4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from TRANSCO Metro Manila Project Management Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders starting July 26, 2004 to August 02, 2004 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be in Cash. The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that the interested bidder shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The TRANSCO Metro Manila Project Management Office will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 02, 2004 - 9:00 A.M. at the address below. Prospective bidders are to be informed of the results of the pre-qualification not later than August 02, 2004 - 5:00 P.M. at the same address. Prospective bidders are to be informed of the results of the pre-qualification not later than August 02, 2004 - 5:00 P.M. at the same address.

7. Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat at the address below on August 02, 2004 - 10:00 A.M. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (LC) issued by a commercial bank	Php 20,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 15,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 25,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (20% of ABC)	Php 200,000.00

8. Bid opening shall be on August 02, 2004 - 10:00 A.M. at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Attn: Engr. ARMANDO V. ZOSA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

LIFESTYLE

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Electronic PINs

* Per basic Sun-to-Sun calls only and is valid for 7 days

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WESTERN UNION

TIGI Curls Rock system includes the Curls Rock Curl Amplifier which gives your curls shape and definition.

REALLY great curls with the complete Tigi Curls Rock system including the Curl Rock Leave-In Moisturiser to help in moisture.

From page 11

Making waves

to do to your God-given hair to wear a headband. It is the easiest and most affordable fashion statement there ever was.

Curl system that rocks

When it comes to hair, the newest trend is going curly but maintaining great natural curls to hand.

For those wishing for the perfect head of curly hair, two major Tigi Catwalk's Curls Rock system, composed of five products with the 3-D action of defining, defrizzing and detangling curls, is your ultimate solution.

For starters, use the Curls Rock Curly Hair Shampoo and Conditioner to moisturise your curls so they stay soft, bouncy and shiny.

Take curl-loving one step further by adding the Curls Rock Leave-In Moisturiser to nourished hair or lock in moisture.

To help your curls, the Curls Rock Leave-In Moisturiser may also be used as a second day re-hydrator.

For styling, use both the Curls Rock Curl Booster and Curl Amplifier. The Curl Booster gives curls' hair incredible shape and shine—apply this non-stick lacquered spray into the hair and diffuse or let dry naturally.

Then to get maximum definition for your curls, touch the Curl Amplifier through damp hair and allow it to air-dry.

Or for medium hold that keeps big waves from wilting, use the Curl Amplifier on damp hair and dry with a diffuser.

Suitable for all curly hair lengths, from normal to dry, and with a fantastic aroma of fruit medley found in the Curls Rock system by Tigi Catwalk provides the ideal 'first' of products to help you achieve those perfect soft curls you've been longing for.

Keeping it healthy

Since I color my hair, it exposes to dryness. An inexpensive way of taking care of my hair is buying hot oil treatments that can be bought at Mercury Drug or PCX.

Normally a jar would cost less than P300 and last a long time since I only use it when I feel the need to. When picking a conditioner, make sure it fits the need of your hair.

Specific needs can be addressed by different variants available today. They call hair "the crowning glory". Make sure yours is so.

TIGI Catwalk Curls Rock products are available in leading salons. Call 843-0000/731-3878/834-8424.

E-mail me at thestyle@inquirer.com.ph

FLOWERS dramatize curly hair with the complete Tigi Curls Rock system.

WHAT the Tigi Curls Rock system can do: confined curliness using the Curls Rock Curl Booster.

cut & keep

Lip service

With these simple steps, you can create sexier, poutier lips without the hassle of surgery

Text and makeup by Bachi Chan

THERE IS, PROBABLY NO harsh feature more significant and important for a woman than her lips. If the stylebook insists the face, then the lips balance everything. Luscious, pouty and sexy lips are a woman's gateway in her two most seductive sources of power—her voice and her sensuality.

But surprisingly, lips are often the unconscious when it comes to makeup. We can bungle everything except our beloved lipsticks. Even young girls playing grown-up start with lipsticks.

Angelina Jolie, Michelle Pfeiffer and Julia Roberts have the most coveted lips among women. You are lucky if you're born with lips like theirs.

Some women now resort to lip augmentation. Although generally safe, lip enlargement involves certain risks such as scarring, hardening of the lips and swelling. Also possible are allergic reactions, clotting, infection and, in most cases, deformed placement of the collagen on the lips.

Thus, some feel a certain reluctance to partake of the quest for that perfect pout since they hear about the scary side of facts, not to mention the cost and the maintenance. Good thing there is makeup, and with just three simple steps, you can create perfect pouty lips without the hassle of surgery.

1. Using a sponge, apply foundation all over the lips. This will create a sort of blank canvas.

2. Powder the entire lips to help set the foundation for the lipstick. This way, the lipstick stays on.

3. Using a neutral lip pencil, outline the desired shape and size of the expected fuller lips. Start at your cupid's bow (it's the two indented parts of your upper lip) and draw toward the corner part. Gently expand the edges for a fuller look. Do the same thing on your lower lip. By doing this, you are enlarging the appearance of your lips, making them more pronounced. Use lip liners in taupe, flesh or sweet pink. Mac Lip liners have the perfect shades for that natural look.

4. Fill in the entire area with pencil. This creates another layer to help keep the color on the lips longer and maintain a look that's natural for the lip area.

5. For the final step, fill in the lips with a lip gloss or lipstick in a neutral shade for that nude and pliump look. Maybelline's Moisture Extreme Lipstick in Buff is the perfect shade if you want to achieve this look. It's smudge-proof, has SPF and it also moisturizes your lips so you don't need to apply a lip balm or a gloss.

6. Using the sponge you used earlier, apply loose powder around the edges of the lips to set the lips and fill in the edges. This should prevent the lipstick from bleeding downwards.

E-mail the author at m_mabellin_m@yahoo.com

Dealing with nails, lashes and other beauty frustrations

MAKEOVER 911

Kenny Salas

ONE GOOD THING about adulthood is that nobody can impose cosmetic rules on you anymore. You can do what you want and if people tell you your makeup is excessive or they don't like it, you don't have to follow their advice because how you look isn't really anyone's business!

My first stop was beauty for Power Plant Mall at Rockwell, which opened its first Bashing Otex (BOI) Nail Bar, a franchise from New York, but whose prices are adjusted for the Philippines market.

I opted for the gems on acrylic nails called "Virtual Nails" (P800) which has a full set of 10 for all fingernail sizes with the nail color of my choice.

The bite has 100 nail sizes to fit every size, from the biggest woman to the youngest child, so everyone is assured a perfect fit.

The attendants already really long transparent curved acrylic nails on you, then ask you how long you want them.

But first, most picked a little paste the finger pads and asked for a nail by-stick-daddy.

Mine were extra long, of Hayley Jimmy Joseph (aka porno nails), and painted deep red in OPI's Barcelona Tan Tastain. They are meant to be kept for two weeks maximum, first soaked and removed.

If you want to have new ones put in after that the same rules apply. They were pretty sturdy as I typed and noticed using my nails for seven days straight.

Bottom and stippers were a struggle at first and people in public restrooms cursed me as I was taking so long to a stall just trying to draw myself.

Exactly a week to the day I had them installed, my nesting overworked thumbnail cracked, as although the others were still perfect I had them soaked and removed (P200) with BOI's special solution that dissolves the acrylic.

Gina installed my virtual nails while Mely removed them.

I must say my gay friends were unconcerned and said they were transported back to their days of puberty when tranny girls in skimpy clothes made their months today.

Thursday and Friday are girls night out days, so BOI is open till 8.30 p.m. on Thursday and 9.30 on Friday during which a free alcoholic drink is served free for every nail treatment.

Lashes

Another frustration of mine are long, thick, curvy Latina lashes. I have long, lashes, but they're fine, lowmaintenance, straight and pretty much normal.

I thought of remedying my eyelash environment from philosophy by Mihaela (P1,050), but Gina used saline care when cleaning your hair and eye area.

I opted for Mihaela's eyelash pairs (P800), which made my lashes appear curled and long. The they made my eyes look big, gay and bright.

Droopy lashes make eyes look tired. It's so liberating to pack away my eyelash curler and put on makeup time cheaper for thick, entwining and defined lashes, there are fabulous new mascaras in the market.

1) Elsa Urmeta Precise Volume Mascara Waterproof (P1,750), which comes in five shades—black, brown, purple, green and blue.

I got brown for understated, natural looking lashes, as well as black for drama. They make lashes look naturally lush and long as each lash is coated and fattened up.

I used a magnifying mirror, and I swear I couldn't see a single clump in lash. Gina I was wearing mascara even on the bottom lashes.

2) Clinique High Definition Lashes, which sells for 995 by late August. Its unique applicator comes with a brush that separates, lengthens and defines each lash for no clumping.

To add more drama, one could use the lash comb side and brush while the lashes become so sinner thicker and darker, one wouldn't need an eyeliner for the upper lids.

The lashes would look like Cleopatra's been here in a mosquito net, one could use some clumping.

The brush side is ideal for bottom lashes as well. But come on, who will really wants into your face than those unless he wants to get slapped?

3) Eliseal Volume Shocking Mascara. Make sure your lashes are curled when you apply this so you will achieve the perfect false eyelashes that will not need upper lid liner.

Applying this on straight lash, as will make them all clump together so you need my wide wiper will appear to right for lashes like Tatiana's legs. Don't even think of applying this on the lower lashes.

SHU UEMURA Precise Volume Mascara Waterproof

My other classic women's favorites that make lashes look racing, sexy and mysterious: Elliseal Lash Sculptor, Maybelline 800 and Lancôme Hypnôse (P2,595).

The above are my greatest indulgences, for I never lashes that look longer, thicker, defined and clump-free. Even applied on straight lashes, any of the products would provide the eyelash extensions effect.

You may also try the MAC Zoomlash, Aussie Bell curl mascara (P1,700) which thickens, lengthens and curls lashes even without a lash curler.

The product is waterproof and, by a special oil-based mixture one take it off. It is resistant to tears, sweat and even skin oils.

Call Philosophy by Mihaela Salon, 6911574, 8385401, 8387400.

E-mail the author at kennysalas@yahoo.com

New scents for him and her

PINK AND BLUE SCENTS FASHION FRAGRANCES for men and women—Pink Soda's Acid Jeans Cologne and Blue Soda's Rain Denim Cologne.

Both scents are characterized by "unexpected combinations."

Jeans and cologne, Pink Soda's Acid Jeans Cologne radiates heat and passion. It is best for the women whose days don't end when the clock strikes 6.

Pink Soda's exclusive & unique extension base Abstral Hydrogen.

Blue Soda's Rain Denim Cologne is an up beat/sparkling citrus fragrance that's fresh, sensual and masculine. It's the scent for men with an active lifestyle.

Top model Benji Silverio, Blue Soda's endorser, reflects the new fragrance's spirit of adventure.

Both cologne have come in specially designed denim inspired scent canisters.

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Visionary hair tilt

WELLA TREND VISION Award 2006 goes onstage at the ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel Makati on July 27 at 6 p.m.

The much-awaited annual event offers young hairdressers the opportunity to show their potential as hair artists by creating personal interpretations of current trends based on the Wella Trend Vision concepts.

The 14 outstanding salon teams chosen as finalists from the numerous qualifying entries and who will be competing during the Awards Night are: from Metro Manila, Dench Salon (Old Manila & Robinson's Galleria branches), Euphoria Blockwell-Makati, Hair UK (Ortigas, Quezon City), Headcase (Edsa Shangri-la), Index (Ort, Ayala), Jeri Miracles (Bonifacio), Jose L. Pineda (Shopie Joppes), Makati, Reyes Hairventure (Araneta & Ayala branches), Quezon City), Vivien Salon (Robinson's Galleria); and from the provinces, Claudia Hair & Makeup Salon in Pampanga, Fresh Shampoo and Hair Studio, both based in Davao City.

Each of the competing teams will interpret one of the following trend concepts from Wella this year: Techno Nature, Soul Daydream, World Fusion, and Gothic Luxury.

Techno Nature combines **authenticity** and modernity, nature and technology. Inspired by the **extremes of nature, the look uses pure** pastel colors and metallic tones that conjure up images of 'sparkling water, clear blue sky, and icy wind.

Soul Daydream opens up a world of luxury where memories are invoked, creating a gentle harmony between the nostalgic and the contemporary. Light, fruity flowery tones recall a garden at sundown, with blackberry bushes, bare trees, and blossoms bathed in warm, gentle light.

World Fusion unveils the most diverse cultural influences. Fading fragments of color, form and design from Peru, Lapland, Hawaii, Kenya, and India. Intense Hawaii-blue, rich lemon, lush hibiscus red and brilliant pink granadas.

Gothic Luxury expresses our yearning for myth, drama and aristocratic delights. Inspired by black-and-white graphic designs, a pale, shimmering skin is contrasted by black leathers and lace, or flowing robes that envelop the body. The look is capped with diamonds, jewels or silverwebs.

The winning team—composed of a stylist, an assistant, plus their model—will represent the Philippines and compete in the International Wella Trend Vision Award to be held in Milan, Italy, on Nov. 12.

Call 843-1179 or 8922226.

LIFESTYLE

Hooray! The waist is back

Good riddance to the low-rise. Now the belt is back where it rightfully belongs

IF YOU HAD BEEN DEBONAIR enough, you'd notice that we not only are belts back, but also—and this is the good news—that they are going up, up to where they rightfully belong—the waist!

It's as if the low-rise—where everything starts at the hips, from jeans to skirts—has been with us forever (you thought it would never end. While those hip-hugging dress-wear were snuggling some notice, namely the hips and derriere, they also, unfortunately, display your dessert eaten—the "fatful," and it's even worse, in low-rise sweaters and up, who doesn't have one, it's pretty uncomfortable to feel your flab hanging out of your hip belt, and it doesn't look good as well...

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

I actually hear some women shopping for clothes complain that they can't find anything other than low-rise.

Now, however, the emphasis is going back to the waist again. You can wear belts—from wider than ones to wide ones...to mark your waist. Of course, the wide belts do a better job of holding your flab in place.

So it's all right, now you can let your belt rest on your waist, not on your hips.

Jollie's scent and sensuality

Over dinner the other night with Jollie Vaz Sioson and Jaws Jacobs (for the third time!) Becky Garcia, I learned something. Jollie had it, oh, scientific explanation) why women like Becky are unfailingly attractive to men. "You have pheromones!" Jollie told Becky.

"Mine what?" I asked. Jollie had to spell the word out.

Jollie explained pheromone is the scent a woman naturally has. Some women have it stronger than others, she added. It's like what animals have for their mating call. Some chemistry.

Jollie added that she just opened in Duckdoggy Today on ad for a "pheromone scent" selling for US$35. Stone-like must be some frequency rocks.

We also learned that Jollie is working on a musical—her festive rendition of contemporary history. She's done several to happier times already.

Jollie doing a concert is out of the Philippine "contemporary history" is really something to look forward to—we're dead. Remember, one of her favorites was "Etiquette for Mistresses." The will be Jollie's second publication of fiction, the first being "Jollie Odie's Love Stories" many years ago.

Ambassadors' Wimbledon

I befriend taking against my wished (pole) the Irene Lopez, Al Enriquez, Philip Uy-enjoying, and other guess out there who cooked, shot or ate about, for Naked Hunks at the Wimbledon championship. Angel Federer beat the 19-year-old Novarro Juan Spain—and saved some women I know from further arrest for pleasure—well, as for Pedro! tennis stance Thelma Ordoñez, Pilar Montes and Monggay Abad!

There was another life on this planet this weekend, aside from the World Cup...Wimbledon, Federer, Nadal final was tennis at its punishing best: a game of physical and mental agility. While other sports rely on head-turning, tennis is the world's consistent viewership. It is character endurance to the finish. So come to rely on: just you and your will to prevail.

British Ambassador Peter Beckingham had a swell idea at Wimbledon cooked off! Hold a Wimbledon Celebrity Games right at the Ambassador's residence in Forbes Park.

What made it so interesting was he had a special guest, American Ambassador Kristie Kenney, a tennis buff.

There was a medium-to-heavy downpour afternoon of June 22—yes, on Wimbledon—but that didn't stop us from heading for the diplomat's residence. Of course, up to the last minute, I was receiving some tennis for the rain not to stop so I could have an excuse not to play.

But no such luck; the symbiotic gods court dried but and the games were according to schedule.

Ambassador Beckingham and former national player Jennifer Steet were up against Ambassador Kenney and Reinaldo Tenorio (singles heroes and friends). There it was the turn of Ambassador Kenney with Doctor Santos, against Dep. Monico Puentevella and famous Nonong.

It was fun. It was obvious that the two top diplomats are good tennis players—witty and other).

Ambassador Kenney said she never had the time to play tennis since she entered here, until Ambassador Beckingham invited her over. The ambassador's wife, Jill, also plays tennis.

Kenney grew up in Washington DC playing the game because her dad was into tennis. She loves doubles but misses she loses her shots once the game starts. "My husband says

LAUREN Dyogi

Time's stylish office

WESLEY Gonzales

OFFICINA DEL TEMPO HAS a new line of trendy yet functional timepieces that depict its rich European heritage.

Established in Arezzo, Italy at the turn of the century, Officina Del Tempo fuses art and technology as it draws from Moorish-inspired themes instilled with modern elements.

Functional yet aesthetic, Officina's stylishly relaxed silicone gel straps are anti-allergic, heat-tolerant and do not harden to contact with acid solutions, such as sweat from the wrist.

With designs ranging from classic to sporty, the Officina Del Tempo collection consists of the Sofi, Agnelli Marenbotti 2 and Tessoni product lines.

The latest dress stellar reviews in the Basel World Watch and Jewelry Show, and has since penetrated the UK, European and Asian markets.

Making its debut in the Philippine market this year, Officina Del Tempo celebrity endorsers include society columnist Maurice Arcache, fashion designers Randy Ortiz, Rep. Gilbert Remulla, basketball star Paisley Gonzales, director Lauren Dyogi, fashion designers Jojo Bacalla, chef Reggie Aquino, homemaker and businesswoman Percy Ejercito, and entrepreneur Mark Villar.

Behind the success of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother" is top television director Laurice Dyogi.

We inevitably (that I get influenced by the show) his world as his or my tastes for fashion and style," Dyogi said. "But in the end, I'd still rather pick stuff that radiate moods and are easy to mix and match with my outfits — just like Officina Del Tempo since it can wear it with shirts or look rugged if I want to. Its mixture of blues and browns makes it easier to match with my outfits."

Cool dad

Remulla also used to work as reporter, writer and author for ABS-CBN's news and current affairs division.

As a member of the House of Representatives, Remulla finds more pride and purpose in creating his two daughters.

The legislator said his Dubsies scope votes to attend the conservation and the theatrical. "I enjoy family outfits things, such as good shoes, a nice suit, a pair of jeans that fit me well," he said.

Remulla wants by the classy yet cutting-edge appeal of Officina Del Tempo watch. "Beyond its sleek looks and functional elegance, it allows me the luxury of being the master of my own time," he said.

Gonzales, the 23-year-old Ateneo alumnus, started playing in the PBL in 1999, two years after a fruitful stint in the UAAP. From there, he rose to the pro ranks when he joined the Pinto Bella/Red Bull team.

Like most jocks leading an active lifestyle, Gonzales' normal weekday is typically consumed with rigorous workouts and hardcore drills. A stickler for effective time management, he prides himself for his strict, spartan discipline on- and off-court.

"I don't really live by the clock," the athlete said. "But I don't think I can live without a watch like Officina Del Tempo. It's classy yet sporty at the same time. It matches my casual Dubsies attire and it's something I can wear anytime, any day."

It was only inevitable that the little girl who used to love dressing up in charity fronts would eventually grow up to be a famous fashion designer someday. And judging from word-of-mouth accolades from the fashion literati and an ever-growing roster of prestigious clients (including Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Lucy Torres-Gomez and Nida Aquino-Cruz), Jennifer has definitely arrived.

Known charming with fresh and radical creations, Kate complements her funky ensemble with the right accessories. "Looking through the Officina Del Tempo catalog, I can definitely sense that very young vibe," she said. "Looks-wise, the details are very interesting, such as the stingray leather straps and the diamond-studded tops. They give you just the right touch of character to stand out from the crowd!"

Cool cook

For a chef, nothing beats the ultimate joy out of bringing happiness into people's homes... and that's what Reggie Aquino has been doing all throughout her life.

Always eager to share her knowledge, Reggie has been teaching cooking for 12 years. Her born training ay school (the Reggie Aquino School of Culinary Arts located at Ilaw Aguas, Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City) for seven years, worked for the UP government, has filipped and some of the best places that one can just dreamed of cooking for," she said.

"There are watches that you don't want to wear because you're worried that you might ruin them," Reggie said. "But this particular watch is wonderful because you can wear it and not worry about it. In other words, you're not a victim to your watch, and that's what I like all about."

Percy Ejercito (no sportsbooks) various cooking projects that have helped the poor and the handicapped.

Married to Sen. Joseph Estrada, Ejercito also co-owns and runs the Manila Jockey Club, a newly opened wagering hole in the bustling Quiapo commercial area.

A woman of modest tastes, Ejercito said her style is simple and practical.

KATE Torralba

RANDY Ortiz

MAURICE Arcache

PERCY Ejercito

GILBERT Remulla

An avid watch enthusiast, Ejercito gushes about her new find: the Italian-made Officina Del Tempo line. "They're classy yet sporty as well," she said. "I like big-faced watches, and most of the Officina Del Tempo watches have that feature. They also have very sleek and elegant straps and [look] timeless."

Cool merchant

A self-made entrepreneur, Mark Villar takes pride in his most recent achievement: the recently opened Steals Superstore at Starmall Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The superstore comes close on the heels of Villar's earlier venture, the Metro Home Depot with branches in Las Piñas and Alabang.

Villar said he is wary of "macroeconomic indicators," it prefers more basic, functional styles and colors," he said. "I like to look classy but not too trendy."

Villar likes Officina Del Tempo's Chronograf model. "Like my style, it's edgy but still classic," he said.

Maurice Arcache's relaxing makes for a delightful read.

His specially offbeat style, spiced up with vivid liturgical references, has even landed him in the pages of the prestigious New York Herald, saying: "... a new spin to journalism was born, with Maurice Arcache's adjectives and phrases as his widely read popular column, with words that include Spanish, French and a word from the dialect of a southern island in the Philippines."

Arcache exudes the savvy and confidence of a true-blue aristocrat. His fashion sense borders on the classic and trendy.

"For accessories, I go read about watches," he said. "A good chat or casual watch such as Officina Del Tempo's Sorrento Chrono, paired with an all-comfy elegant shoes."

Considered as a fashion forerunner, Randy Ortiz is known for his mixture of plaids and tribes that creates a refreshing alternative to the typical Filipino male's conservative chines.

The designer describes his style as "modern but always restrained and classic, minimalist, uncluttered and forever young."

His taste for clothes and accessories is toward the functional and timelessly classic.

"Performing a juggling act with new Officina Del Tempo's Agnelli Chrono Tel," Randy said. "It's very sporty and functional for everyday use. Definitely a fashion statement I can tell my own."

Officina Del Tempo collection is available at Rafael Jewellery, John Silvangi-ca Plaza Mall, SOGOOD, Rafael Jewellery, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, G.I.SOUL, My Diamond, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Makati City, 757-2886; My Diamond, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, QC, 912-6815; and My Tempo, SM North Edsa, QC, 9375-5111.

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MARK Villar

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney

Hooray! The waist is back

From page D1

ride well until the zoom begins," she told us.

Asked if she plays golf like all the other diplomats, ambassador Kenney said, "Play is a very strong word to use." Then you get to smash it in.

We were joined by RBA assistant general manager for security Angel Aventin, Pan-secuBlack's Virgil Gamos, and tennis pros Francis Alcantara, Anthon Magbuos, Mario Blas, Jun Toledo, and Team Ole UK Bunbury... John Clark, Sarah Dalton, Emma Lester, Dermot Mohany, Lita Monahan and Tony Hutton who served as umpire. Bishop Ebenezer led his Oratoy Iogos and Cecil Mallentine Reyes was present.

Guess who the ballboys were? Students from British School who looked so spiffy in their shorts and shirts, just like Wimbledon.

Marcos portrait

About the Ferdinand Marcos portrait by Claudio Bravo (June 22 column) that allegedly had been "abandoned" at Malacañang after the Marcoses fled in 1986, Malacañang Presidential Museum curator Judget Ponti Jr. (heading) wrote to say that the portrait is still there.

"Far from being abandoned, it is on display in the Presidential Museum in Kalayaan Hall," Jimenez said. "It is, perhaps, the most publicly accessible Bravo portrait in the country today. Some visitors say, the portrait, instead of being three years than 50 years ago, is "rather tri-biling" a testament to the great skill of the painter."

BRITISH Ambassador Peter Buckingham

Partnership launched

SHIBAN, THE WORLD'S No. 1 EYEwear, launched its partnership with Ray-Ban Inc. and Sliperium at the SM Mall of Asia.

The event, which started with a motorcade around the unveiling of Grasse Optical's new store, cocktails were served at the Sliv Room.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation of Ray-Ban's Magic 8, composed of students from Miriam College who performed a belly dance.

The new Ray-Ban and Sliperium partnership will be showcased at the Philippine Touring Car Championships in Subic and Batangas slated at 12 noon, Sundays, on Studio 23.

SLIPSTREAM'S TV host Dominic Updated

DJ TRAVIS Mercad

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NATIONAL CONGRESS. Peace Workers of the Holy Souls, an Apostolate of the Marian Foundation, Inc., will hold its third National Congress and 18th Anniversary April 30 - May 10, July 29, at the gymnasium of San Jose Elementary School, N. Domingo St., San Juan. The celebration will include a thanksgiving Mass, torch fellowship and family Bingo Fiesta. Call (2) 3004762, 7245814, 7245815 hotline, or text 0918-5098828.

BIG DISCOUNT. Fishermens Place Greenhills is marks its fifth anniversary this month by offering shoppers up to 50 percent discount on selected items. The "All-Out Weekend" Mega Anniversary Sale" will be held July 28-30. Special shows at the Activity Area will feature various celebrities, like True Faith at 5 p.m., July 28; and "Stardreamz" Band's 3 sessions Jackie Rice at 4 p.m., July 29, and Mark Gatbi, at 4 p.m., July 30.

GOINGS ON

CHANNING CONTEST. The launching of the "Europe Ko Ta" drawing contest and "A Celebration of Mozart's Music" highlighted the recent celebration of Europe Month at the Podium. The drawing contest, with the theme "Europe Ko Ta: The Europeans Unions in the Eyes of the Filipino Youth," is open to all Filipino students in Metro Manila. The contest has two categories: Category I or Crayons for Grades 4-7 students, and watercolor for third- and fourth-year high school students. All entries must be submitted at the Delegation of the European Commission in the Philippines, 15/F, ECRC Plaza, Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati. Deadline for submission of entries is 12 noon, Aug 4. All winning entries will be exhibited at the Podium.

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT. To all NEU alumni of St. Scholastica's College high school, please be advised that the Grand Reunion has been moved to Aug. 19, Friday (instead of Aug.). "Bonds Za Condo: The NEU Grand Reunion" will still be held 5-9 p.m. at the Dr. Kundiman Hall (formerly the school gym). Call Yael Rodriguez at 5291586 local 370 or 891-8940 to 43. Join the NEU yahoogroups to sending an empty message to neu_reunion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

WORKSHOP. Mirador Filipinas presents "Transform It," a theatre/commercial acting and basic modeling workshop July 22-Sept. 10, at the Ivory Bar and Restaurant, 13 Annapolis St., Greenhills. San Juan. Enrollment is ongoing. Call 7209661, 7231309 or 7262580.

FESTIVAL. Davao City celebrates the 21st Kadayawan sa Dabaw Festival, Aug 14-20. Among the activities lined up are Tibo Agro-Industrial Fair, Kaan Sweet Food Street Fiesta, Paseosalamat, Kadyaka, Mano Festival, Food Fiesta, Call Kadayawan sa Dabaw Foundation Inc. at (082) 2965314 or Tourism Operations Office at (082) 2251940.

SEMINARS. GTG Creative Training Management is offering the following seminars: "Effective Issues Management" (9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Aug. 8); "Psychology Management" (9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Aug. 11); and "Basic Bookkeeping" (9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Aug. 12). Call 889-1865, 8722958, 8234031.

SEMINAR. The British Council is holding its annual "Welcome to the UK" seminar 1:30-5:30 p.m., July 28, at the Esmeralda Board Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Galleria. The seminar provides practical tips on living and studying in the United Kingdom. Seminar registration fee is P500. Visit its www.britishcouncil.org.ph or call 8181011 to 16.

PROMO. You can win P1 million instantly or the grand raffle with Citibank's March & Win promo. Run until July 31. Just use your Citibank credit card to pay for purchases. Every credit card purchase worth at least P1,000 has two ways to win. You can get instant cash when your Citibank credit card number matches the instant-win approval code on your sales slip. The raffle is also underway for the grand raffle draw. To win instant cash, simply rub digits in the transaction approval code should match card numbers in your Citibank credit card. Prizes range from P100 P1 million. For the grand raffle, enroll by text message the last 16 digits of your Citibank credit card number and the six-digit approval code on your sales slip to 29498. Grand prize is P1 million. Watch & Win is open to all Citibank principal and supplementary cardholders.

WEEKEND SALE. Shoppers in Bulacan and in the Ilog Hale Hi-ace Store, July 21-23. Located at the Concourse Court, Hestrid Supermart, Alabang, the hypermarket is giving up to 70 percent discount on selected products. The first 1,000 customers on the Ilog 1 weekend sale can win grill merchandise worth up to P10,000. The event will also feature the Fairground Band 4-6 pm.

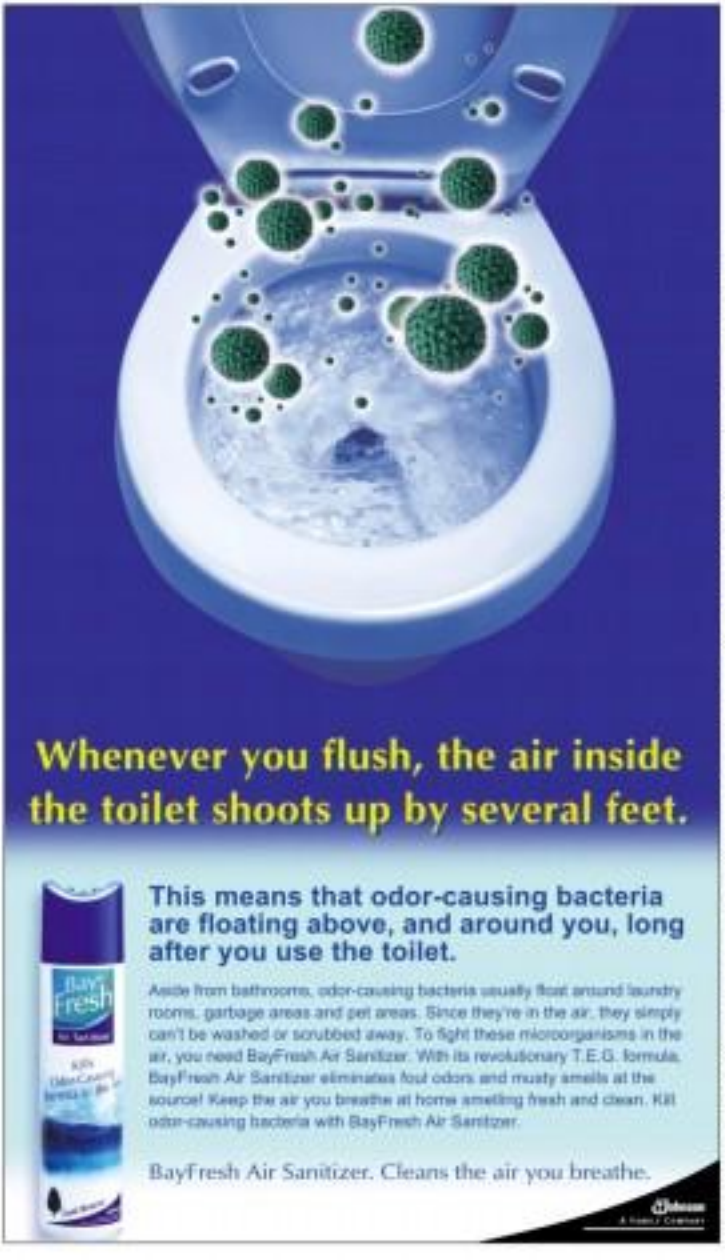
BUSINESS SEMINARS. Businessmentor Academy will hold a series of business seminars in August. Topics include "How to Make a Fortune in Online Forex Trading," "Buy it, and "Step by Step Guide to Business Ownership." Call 9514482, 4845369 or visit www.businessmentor-academy.com

SPECIAL PROMO. Enchanted Kingdom presents "Rainy Day Promo." Until Aug. 14, the park will give free rides tickets to people who visit. The tickets are valid for one ride from the rides chart. Visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

MALL SALE. Shangri-La Plaza is offering up to month on 70 percent discount on selected items during its seasonal mega sale that starts July 31. The mall-wide sale also features "Shop, Pick & Win" that lets shoppers pick and win instant prizes. A state-of-the-art selected pleasure cruise liner will be the grand draw at 6 p.m., Aug. 6. Aboard the cruise, Pick & Win shoppers will win instant cash prizes. Every P2,000 worth of purchase of P2,000 shoppers get a raffle coupon plus a chance to pick instant prizes. Call 633-9514 to 78.

FUN ACTIVITIES. Alabang Town Center and Ronald Mc, Molinuevo Elementary School will host activities for kids. At 6 p.m., July 23, there will be a Clay Modeling Workshop at 4/F, Courtyard Activity area. The "Singing Star 2006 Grand Finale" will be held 4 p.m., July 30. Call 8404122.

REUNION. Class 1967 of the Bandara High School (now Bandara National Comprehensive High School) will host a 40th anniversary on or about May 19-20, 2007. Members of Class '67 may call or text Marlon Diomedi Mendez, 0917-3692921; and Evelyn (Bachrach) Udarbe, 0919-3661488 or 4642850.



NEW BARGAIN DESTINATION IN SANTA ROSA

Discounted sport product items are available at Ensanchan Development Corp.'s Paseo de Santa Rosa, which is merely 45 minutes away from Metro Manila. Paseo de Santa Rosa is the country's first outlet square center that offers one items at considerable lower prices, only minutes after their stall debut in Metro Manila. Popular brands such as Nike, Adidas, Dunlop, Spaulo, ANGI and New Balance are available at the Paseo. Food outlets include Pepsi's Mix, Café Breeze, Racin Club, Tropical and El Simon. More sport shops and other centers will be available when Paseo 2 opens. Call 4206665 or (049) 541 2665. Visit www.greenfield.com.ph

Thai fashion house invades Manila

ONE OF THE top fashion brands in Thailand is now in Manila and until July 31, the upscale brand is holding its mid-year sale with up to 50-percent off on selected items.

Known for its attention to details and high standards of quality, Pg Bupala offers a style variety of sweet and sophisticated wear for the modern woman.

The collection of chic stylish designs and sophisticated silhouettes that easily appeal to young and hip students, career-driven professionals, and high-powered executive alike. The merchandise and includes women blouses, knit tops, skirts, pants, jackets and accessories.

Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Corporate Apparels, Inc., Pg Bupala is now available at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza, and Rustan's Alabang Town Center, and has boutiques at SM Mall of Asia, SM Clark Hypermart, SM Super Annex, and soon to open at SM North Edsa Annex 3 (the Block).

Spotless and Blemish-Free Skin

A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots and spider veins without a trace. Jennifer Jones Jones is one satisfied client. She narrates: "I had dark skin, but I had reddish spider veins on my face and some pigmentation on my cheeks. They weren't freckles, but they just seemed like a dark shadow. IPL removed my spider veins and lightened my brown spots."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage is manifested there. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions and skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of aging, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes.

Jenny happily recalls her IPL experience: "It was about my 3rd treatment when I noticed a change. After IPL...wow, I became flawless! My pores became smaller and barely even visible. Friends would ask, 'How did your skin get so smooth and even?' and I tell them I got IPL. The funny thing is, some of them have tried IPL with other dermatologists but didn't get results like mine. I don't know if there's a difference in the intensity they use, but my results definitely noticed that the IPL at Facial Care Centre gave me actual, visible results."

Another fan of IPL is actress/interior design consultant Carrie Martin. She happily returned for more treatments of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skin became even in the past I'd always have to wear make-up because I was afraid to let people see me without it. Now, since I love going to Boracay, I can enjoy the sun and not make-up free!"

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL simultaneously treats a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It treats skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments.

Actress Diana Zubiri is all precious her thin blemish creases as well. "My problem has always been the emergence of acne," she reveals. "Since my skin is oily I become prone to it. When I started doing IPL, I noticed that my pores got smaller and I stopped getting breakouts as early as the 3rd treatment! Over time, my skin was looking clearer, and complexion-wise, so much better. Before, I couldn't leave the house without putting on some concealer on my blemishes. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough even without make-up because I know my skin is clear and even."

Jenny, Carrie and Diana are only three of many satisfied clients who have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles and other skin discolorations. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, their experience relatively no downtime. They resume their routine immediately after their treatment. Most patients have even found showing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Now isn't this the best news for your skin!

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

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Canon

Delighting You, Always

Get here stars with a FREE 256MB Memory Card when you buy a PowerShot A430.

- 4 Megapixels
- 4x Optical Zoom
- 6.37 cm (1.8") LCD screen

PowerShot

A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

AVET Evangelista and fashion designer Kate Torralba

MODEL Cristina Garcia and Century Tuna image model Wil Devaughn

FUENTES Paintsy Hontanosas and Raul Fuentes and Raul Conejo

FOREVER wives Albert and Lisa Cuenca

MCU Century Tuna Lite model Malou Rivera and Peppur Tochinkov

CENTURY Tuna young achiever Lou Ty

A perfect day for tuna fish

THE STARS of the fab fundraising event: Breast cancer survivor Toni Aboud and talented artist Manny Padilla

CENTURY TUNA IS BIGNESS ON A BIG, palengke. First we had the stunningly successful Century Tuna event in Boracay and on the 5th to 6th floor is absolutely healthy for all celebrated another fab evening of exquisite food, fitness and fashion. That was during the launching of the new Century Tuna Lite at 88 Cafe in Greenbelt, dahlings.

Tragedibly hosted by beautiful model Blanca Valeiras (who had just returned to from Cannes as the Philippine representative of Binibini Cadet), "A Night of Pure Delite" gathered several personalities to celebrate the healthy and light lifestyle.

It was great chatting with Century Tuna hostess executives such as Lee Po, Joseph Wanda and Ayet Evangelista.

"We're very excited to launch the new Century Tuna Lite, your favorite tuna now made lighter and healthier. This new tuna variant was made with health (with) in mind, to keep them fit and active while at work or at play," said Evangelista.

Since I've been a diehard follower of Century Tuna for eons, not found out that this new Century Tuna Lite has 50 percent less fat and 50 percent less salt. It is also loaded with the bona's friendly Omega 3 to promote normal blood pressure, eliminate body fat deposits, and enhance ideal weight.

We then sampled the yummy healthy goodness of Century Tuna Lite dishes excellently done by 88 Café's talented chef, Sua del Rosario.

The eye-catching light and white fashion show got on a roll with the latest collection of hot designer Kate Torralba. Century Tuna's awesome twosome Malou Rivera (host) and the new product's gorgeous image models marched down the runway.

Serenading us was artiste two artist Sirit, who dished out cool, soothing, bossa nova rhythms, primarily.

"A Night of Pure Delite" definitely inspired the invitees to live a healthier and lighter life through the Sub Century Tuna Lite, totally.

FORMER actress Lilia Cuntapay, member of Toni Aboud, Nonie Buencamino and Ververt Libarios

AMBASSADOR Qiao Guowei

MIGUEL de Leon, Eliseo Jones Lopez and the artist's wife, Mia Tantoco-ing Padilla

ART follower Olivia Monteverde Ramada

TANYA Dulalia, Steve Tantoco-ing and Mike Chan

AMARIS Armamento, actor Ricky Davao

TOP ARTIST and stylist Mike Sandoval with our very own, ace photographer Alex Vaz Hagos

REPS Rubio and Sec. Lucky Mistrigal

Moms from workplace

"Whether it's extra-time dahlings, it's definitely not a reason to be sloppy, style-wise, palengke.

"With Moms, my zipple is sure to look scorching and stylish yet relaxed and comfy at the workplace," said Moms' brand manager Louie Teoti.

Moms showed off its scorching "Wear It-Work It" 2006 collection at that hot race, Uno!

While our dug into the excellent salad and fish prepared by top chef Fernando, I noticed the well-cut, demi- and crisp pieces in the fashion runway; they were featured on the casual, chic, relaxed corporate look.

Moms was inspired by the news recent find, so a lot of comic lines, stripes, soft-washed linens and lightweight denims are present in their summer collection, palengke.

The fashion line has classified its tagline, from "Clothes that Work" to "Wear It-Work It."

Hosted by good-looking honeymoon Jojo Alejar, Moms's 2006 collection launch also introduced three hardest sectors thinkers who are all dedicated to the brand.

TV personality and youth leader Bam Aquino might have worked with the National Youth Commission before but that didn't mean he won't be up all the time in office. Instead, "I choose to devote more energy, injecting Moms-passion into my work-ethic, which is my style and dedication," said Bam, who looked cool and confident.

Good-looking Jojo Mateo has carved more

CENTURY Tuna's Ayet Evangelista, Sucsy Pitargue, Kat Gomez and Joseph Pineda

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Nodak Camera

Padilla on exhibit

For years anybody in the know had known that was for all seasons, Manuel "Manny" Padilla, was a gifted artist.

Manny P has finally agreed to hold his first solo exhibition, showing 25 awesome paintings to passed and oil, palengke.

Held at the Banquet Hall of Milky Way Building, the exhibit displayed Mr. Padilla's personal interpretation of nearby items such as cups, ceiling fans and lamps. We was amazed at Manny's talent for scene, which were set against a maze of striking colors, dahlings.

The exhibit brought out scene of Gomez Mansion's arts scandal, plus loads of art lovers. After all, palengke, this exhibition exhibit was for the benefit of the breast cancer awareness institution of Eisenses Foundation, "An organization that seeks to educate and to promote the wellness of women," explained petsy Mia Tantoco-ing Padilla.

From the Eisenses Foundation were Bastian's brilliant Rhoda Campos and Be Ramos Bun, who lensmed in with Shreyas Gregg, Mark Gamboa and George Xynogalos from Sun Bath & Body.

The adorable Toni Aboud, a breast cancer patient herself, gave a heartfelt speech on the challenges of the disease, which had us all amazed in tears. We admired her courage to fight the big C and her love for life.

She advised women "to have your regular breast examination in order to detect the disease at its early stage."

Supporting Toni all the way was her husband, handsome Paolo Aboud; her mother, former top actress Lilia Ibasco; her gorgeous sister, business businesswoman, and fashion stylist. Rich Ibasco, he always looks relaxed and presentable wherever he is, whether at a board meeting, at his call center business or at his home.

Brilliant Anna Maria Pertierra is yet another social figure who visits Mexico, especially because she's loaded with corporate involvements and social advocacies. Creative Anna Maria always has something to wear for any occasion.

Three different individuals, dahlings, one fashion brand. Those stylish professionals know that Moms can accompany them anytime and anywhere.

Check Moms out, palengke.

TOP model and beauty queen of the 1980s Shirley Valente in Pardo Mood

PHARGUE, Comic & Villareal Communications' Artist Jamie

MICHELLE Puhos in Kate Torralba

HANDSOME Joe Mullally

THE TACT Bath & Body Gang, George Xynogalos, Hermye Gregg, Be Ban and Nick Sandoz

RUA Pangilinan and mom Marisol Lanz-Pangilinan

LAUNCH emcee, TV personality Jojo Alejar

HOTSHOTS were Moms, Jojo Mina, Moms's top-of-the-line brand manager Louie Teoti, Anna Maria Pertierra and Bam Aquino

GABY Dela Merced (left), currying champion, zooms from casual to chic with a cropped jacket from Kenneth Cole.

NADINE Samonte (right), more actress, exudes romance in a white scarf neck Kenneth Cole top.

Fab femmes, thanks to a little makeover

WITH THE HELP OF STYLE EXECUTIVE Rosario Herrera and Bureau Veritas's beauty experts led by Stefan Wilczynski, Metrobank Preview Visa gave three women the experience of a glam makeover.

Bacolod champion baby-doll Merced, usually at home in sweaty race gear, fancies the ultra-feminine look after all. Rosario's hair wizards pour her glamorous flowing curls—one of the biggest looks in Hollywood today. Ground nuts too chic with a smart pin-together piece of choice from Kenneth Cole and what can be more alluring than a soft fluid dress from Tango. Dramatic makeup blames Gaby's haircare and eyes—a regal finish to her subversive tomboy getup.

"I love new pieces yourself affects how you feel inside" notes Gaby. On her makeover, she adds, "It's a bold yet simple look. I'm more a jeans-and-rubber-shoes gal. But I love this look. I could practically go from meetings to parties."

From humble beginnings, Nadine Samonte was discovered through GMA TV "Starstruck" search, which opened the door to her path to acting preparations. Despite her popularity, Nadine admits to prefer a more relaxed style statement. She smiles, "I really like my new look because it looks so natural. And I particularly like the hairdo approach. It's fresh, young, and very true to my personality."

Nadine loved how the shalwar-lameta picked from Kenneth Cole and Tango complemented her own look.

Ever on the go, Pearl Gregorio finds dressing well for work and for everyday to be quite a challenge, given her hectic and long hours.

To up her "real chick quotient," the stylist chose the latest collection from Tango for Pearl, who absolutely enjoyed being a bit feminine for a day.

"I'm always keen on conservative with my style choices," she says. "This experience has opened me up to try being more experimental with my looks."

Want your own dynamic and fabulous makeover? Just shop with your Metrobank Preview Visa and enjoy the perks of shopping credits worth P10,000 or spending a day with Metrobank's Preview Visa style consultants for a makeover. Plus you get first dibs on the most up-to-date style news as part of the Metrobank Fab Woman Friends promo.

To join the promo and qualify for the monthly draw, all you need to be is a Metrobank Preview Visa cardholder in good standing. Simply unfold every first week of the month, with the shopping credits awarded smoothly and the makeovers every quarter.

PEARL Gregorio, call center agent, exudes a subtly sexy look with a blue sweetheart-cut top with obiale accents by Tango.

Infanticipating in style

1. NAUTICAL look in navy and white. 2. Grecian chiffon dress. 3. Full, long skirt worn casually with a scoop neck top. 4. Flowing scarf and versatile topping. 5. Sequined cotton cardigan from positive shoes.

DESIGNED TO BE WORN THROUGHOUT pregnancy and after for maximum comfort and style, BIZU's current collection includes casual maternal and bohemian styles, evening wear and fun accessories.

Wide-collar U-leggings are teamed with a crisp white crossover top and pinstriped jacket. Slouch pants in cool, breathable cotton/linen look gorgeous with the fantastic fit-I (also doubles as a breastfeeding top for after). Add a splash of red with the tank top, layered over a long top shirt—a fabulous stepmom look framed with fairy pinstripe pants.

Feel floaty and cool in BIZU Angel dress in light cotton, or sophisticated in the Paris dress. BIZU also has such a fabulous collection of jeans, from the popular Bird Denim to the new-fit Jean, not forgetting the denim straps for clothes ribs.

The Charlotte Inverness for BIZU designs include Grecian chiffon dresses embellished with beads and feathers. Silver sequins on a soft stretch waistband tie in beautifully with the silky top in contrast fabric.

The leather skirt dress would be stunning for a wedding or just effortlessly cool dressed over a pair of jeans.

Customize your BIZU Tshirt with a "Due to" transfer—spare people the much-asked question! And an absolute must—the incredibly handy Happy Bag. It comes with a wipeable changing mat, bottle warmers and a shoe pocket on the front to personalize it with a photo of your baby (or husband as seen. It's great for dads as well!

A fantastic new design for breastfeeding—the BIZU Singlet keeps you cool and comfortable and oh so discreet. See fingering the smooth zip-like intimately. Bra with a sexy hint of lace for absolute comfort (even bring underwear as well).

BIZU is located at Glorietta 4, 2/F Ayala Center, Makati (772-8203-04) and Mall of Asia, shop 2134, Bay Boulevard, Pasay City (556-0153-56).

SHIMMER in a rose-silky top with silver sequins on a soft stretch waistband.

WHO says preggies can't wear feathers! There is a demand for BIZU special occasion dresses.

It's raining **Flat** & Slim, LCD & plasma TVs at Automatic Centre's

APPLIANCE STORM

Ayala Mall Glorietta-July 17-30

0% interest on all items

Summer's over and the rains have come, and at Automatic Centre's first appliance exhibit at the onset of the rainy season, it's raining flat and slim, LCD and plasma TVs at amazing zero-percent interest installments deals.

Ongoing from July 17 to 30, 2006 at Ayala Mall Glorietta 3, the zero-percent interest installment are offered for all brands and models ranging from 3 to 24 months.

Great discounts and lots of fantastic freebies also await customers at the exhibits.

With all the major credit cards accepted, Automatic Center has made it easier for you to take home that much-desired flat screen, plasma and LCD TVs, DVD

PAGE E5

Canon

Delighting You Always

LET OUR TECHNOLOGY MOVE YOU.

Capture still photos and record videos simultaneously with Photo DV.

Get photo and video output with vibrant, lifelike quality with the Canon exclusive DIGIC DV Imaging Processor.

Reduce glare and ghosting and wobble blurs. Expect only images with exceptional clarity, contrast and resolution with Superb Optical Performance.

Enjoy home movies with a theater-like viewing experience when you record in True High Resolution 16:9 Widescreen.

DIGIC DV

Canon Digital Camcorders.

Get a free carrying case, miniDV tape/s for all models and battery pack for selected models - ZR950, Optura 50, Optura 60, Optura 600 and Optura i5

Canon introduces the World's slimmest and smallest DVD Photo DV camcorders

The DC20 and DC21 are the first ever DVD+Photo DV camcorders. These new Photo DVs offer consumers the unparalleled convenience and convenience of taking video or snapping still shots for immediate viewings sans DVDs, which can then be played using a normal DVD player. The introduction of the DC20/21 expands Canon's Photo DV range of camcorders, renowned for their ability to record quality stunning, lifelike movies and photos.

The DC20 features a 2.5 megapixel CCD, RGB colour filter, and many camera functions; the DC21 is equipped with a 1.3 megapixel CCD. Both Photo DVs have a powerful 10x genuine Canon optics zoom lens and Canon's exclusive DIGIC DV imaging processor for superb, high quality movies and stills recording.

Space age design, pocket edition size

The DC20 and DC21 have a highly futuristic design concept featuring sleek, space age lines that is totally unlike any other camcorder on the market right now. The use of aluminium for obviously gives the Photo DVs a robust, handy feel due to its seemingly tough. The optical zoom lens is further enhanced by a built-in grip cover that snugly securely fixed into the Photo DV body in addition, the DC20 and DC21 have the slimmest and smallest body in the 2.5 and 1.3 megapixel class respectively!

Convenience is of DVD

The DVD offers a number of convenience uses of any advantages. Users can obtain quick, random access to recorded footage without having to constantly forward and rewind a tape. Another advantage of the DVD - the DC20/21's exclusive auto detect and write-to-blank protects of the DVD without any possible risk of accidentally overwriting recorded footage.

Video editing is more easily done on the DC20/21 without the need to connect to a PC - attach such as much of a hassle for the casual hobbyist. Video editing features include the Manual Index function that displays recorded footage in a thumbnail format. The Play List function allows you to choose your favourite footage or still images and change the order or to delete footage. Users can also immediately divide or delete original footage freely on the Photo DV with the Quick Edit function. Images can be recorded using the essential but cool for high-speed photo taking, shot-later capture easy to the DVD with the capture button. PC to card again available for saving more images.

DC 20 Photo DV DC 21 Photo DV

Other features

As befits their status as part of the Photo DV range, the DC20/21 has a host of useful and creative camera functions. Point and shoot users will appreciate the 6 scene Auto mode that allows fast and accurate focusing of off-centre subjects. A wide variety of focus modes allow fast-fire shooting with manual settings permit according to differing scene conditions. The DC20/21 offers outstanding high-speed continuous shooting of up to 3 fps. A selectable 10sec mode lets users choose from single, high-speed continuous, Continuous, or short Exposure Shooting. The DC20 further includes a light-pulse-flash and a mini video light, which are accessible with one touch operation.

Users can easily access to the widescreen video function with the one touch button that switches the Photo DV to receive high-resolution 16:9 video, which will greatly appeal to users who own widescreen TVs. A super high-brightness LCD ensures easy composition of shots even under direct sunlight - this with one touch screen, while a Finalize function located on the Photo DV body provides easy access to the frequently used functions. Likewise, a user-friendly Print/Share button allows for single frames shots to immediately download or print images to a computer/printer.

Bundled software

The bundled DVD RW software includes a DVD Authoring function that allows capturing editing, making chapters and scenes to DVD interactive menu, and finally, DVD formatting. The MPEG DVD software allows users to download footage to three different ways: one touch dubbing from camcorder to PC, from DVD using the camcorder directly, or via the PC to read unfinalized DVDs. Once the DVD has been finalized, users can simply turn the disc and immediately pop it into the DVD player without the hassle of downloading to a PC first.

Cameras lively and optional accessories

The DC20/21 is the world's first desktop-compatible DVD camcorder, from the DC20 line-up. The DM-DC10 is Canon's camcorder only for the camcorder. Desktop function allows direct printing to compatible printers. A wide range of optional accessories is available like the camcorder or wide-converter lenses that allow for more creative options.

Automatic CENTRE

It's raining **Flat** & Slim . . .

From page E4

players, video and digital cameras, MP3 players and home theater systems. A wide variety of washing machines, air conditioners, refrigerators, cooking ranges and microwave ovens are also offered in the same new personal interest in multimedia plasa.

With an extensive array of global brands, shoppers can choose from Samsung, Sony, LG, Pioneer, Bluetz, Panasonic, JVC, Toshiba, Philips and Hitachi. For the young and for the young at heart, there are high-tech gadgets available like iPods and Palm PDAs.

Portable DVD players also come in handy with Northstar and Audiovox, two of the more affordable and dependable DVD players brands around. Completing the retailer's great buys are the white lines which include refrigerators and dryers from Electrolux, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse, as well as gas ranges from La Germania as well as Giorgio.

Now on its 10th year, Automatic Centre currently has 21 branches nationwide. It offers everything and anything you need for this rainy season be it for the home or the office.

As a pioneering appliance store, it has always kept the varying needs of its customers in mind and has always strived to find solutions for the consumers' specific requirements.

Testament to this is the "Appliance Storm" exhibit and all the exhibits it has held previously. These highlight the company's continuing efforts to keep Filipinos abreast with the latest innovations and technologies while making these products available at good and reasonable value to consumers.

APPLIANCE STORM
Ayala Mall Glorietta-July 17-30

Branch Network

MAKATI
2nd Level, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Tel. Nos. 750-0388 to 92
G/F Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center
Tel. Nos. 7808334/8950843 to 44

TAGUIG
3rd Level, Market! Market! Mall
Bonifacio Global City
Tel. Nos. 709-2342 to 51

MUNTINLUPA
2nd Level, Festival Supermall, Alabang
Tel. Nos. 850-3327 to 29
3rd Level, Ayala Town Center, Alabang
Tel. Nos. 809-0985/809-8076

LAS PIÑAS
2nd Level, SM Southmall
Tel. Nos. 800-1724 to 25

MANDALUYONG
2nd Level, Robinsons Place Pioneer
Pioneer St. Cor. EDSA
Tel. Nos. 747-33-45 to 47

G/F EDSA Central Mall
Shaw Blvd. cor. EDSA
Tel. Nos. 683-0892/ 683-0722

PASIG
2nd Level, Ortigas Home Depot
Ortigas Center
Tel. Nos. 635-4674/635-4680

SAN JUAN
G/F Greenhills Shopping Center
Tel. Nos. 705-1379 to 89

QUEZON CITY
3rd Level, Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas Ave. cor. EDSA
Tel. Nos. 633-0012 to 15

2nd Level, Gateway Mall
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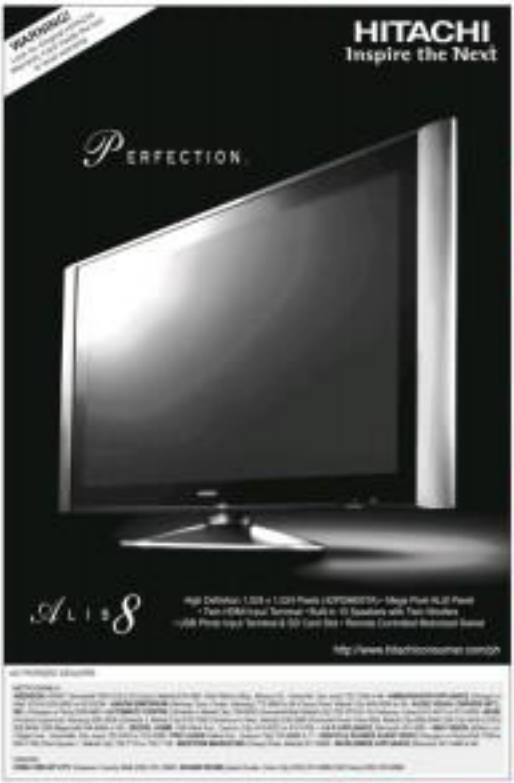

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LIFESTYLE

Carol Boulting editor
Jenell Epperson
and
Agnes Arbelo-Sadhwani

FASHION

A-Z

Fashionology

Brushing up on the A, B, Z of fashion

By Checha V. Moral

HMMM, SO, WOMAN, YOU THINK YOU KNOW fashion. Okay, we believe you. But then again, even experts like yourself require some brushing up on the fashion alphabet from time to time.

After all, no self-respecting fashionista should be caught in the embarrassing situation of not being able to tell the difference between a Birkin and a Birkin. Or, gods of fashion forbid, be caught unable to pronounce "Lanvin" right, or say Ms. Ralph Lauren's name out loud as if he were some French-born sensation.

For the non-fashionistas, here's how along, but not, even some of the best-dressed see them can't say Comme des Garçons right (they'd never admit it, though, and would rather awkwardly show you the tag than tell you who made their dress).

FYI, it's Gawn-zaw, com-day gar-sohn and lan-vehn.

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A

Aquascutum

From the combined Latin words for "characteristic cloth" or "water shield," the brand was originally known for the weather-resistant outer wear for 19th-century British army. Now a half-century-old purveyor of contemporary clothing, it has a heritage of dressing up royals and celebrities. You can get a piece of that from its stores closest to Manila—in Hong Kong and Tokyo.

B

Birkin

You may never own a Birkin but you can at least learn what the fuss is all about. This shallow purse was created in the 1980s after the Bic Kish actress Jane Birkin complained to Hermès of the difficulty of opening the Kelly (see it), the French luxury house's other iconic bag. The price of a Birkin equals that of a small car, and with a two-year-long waiting list, all the very least. Okies used one cars, and everything is handmade. Mo say, girl, dream on!

C

Céline

Born in the 1950s and made popular in part by its quintessential bag/purse, Céline has become known for its sophisticated look but with a modern edgy twang to designer Phoebe Philo, who took over from friend Stella McCartney in 2007. Before then, there were Ruth Lagerfeld and Michèle Lélion at the helm. It's yet unclear who will inherit the label now Philo's gone, she's recently left the house after nearly five remarkable years.

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Those inexpensive yet absolutely amazing totes are the true headturners

BAGS in the City, P1,300

IT IS EASY TO DROOL OVER THE latest designer bag seen on the internet or in the latest issue of Vogue magazine. It is just as easy to fantasize that you are a model dressed in Jackie O-inspired outfits (bandana, capri pants, oversized shades, striped shirt and bejeweled thong sandals) endorsing the latest "it" bag. And it is just as easy to imagine that you're on some exotic island where the yacht, wind, blue waters and your bag are your only companions. In fact, it is just as easy to wish that you were one of the Hollywood hotties caught by the paparazzi toting one of the latest to-die-for bags.

The fieldtrip created by the IN mediateny for this next luxury bag is so exciting that by the time the bags are actually sold in the stores, the wide-eyed shopping monsters like me are ready to pounce on the freshest prey. (Hint: second fruit) this latest recent victim of Samantha Jones in "Sex and the City" coming unhinged over the Birkin bag.)

So, the excitement acquired from your latest acquisition flakes out as fast as you whip out your credit card. The ecstasy is over: what your favorite celebrity once owned is now yours. The adolescent of the bunch is over. The quest for the Ultimate Brag Bag has been fulfilled. And you are left asking yourself, "Eh, ano ngayon?" As my friend brother Bill King liked to say, "The thrill is gone."

Though buying an exclusive designer bag cannot outdo its own bragging rights (Shallot' Ma. Hilow your ears to admire us.), you should at least enjoy the oohhs and ahhhs of your friends and enemies), the Ultimate Brag Bags are the ones that like to call a "Head Scratcher."

They make you whip your head around because they look so fabulous, yet you also wonder why you've never seen them before. These are the bags you don't look for nor lose sleep over, but once you've seen it, it just talks to you, softly whispering "hey me. I know you want me."

A bag like that is one of those great finds you almost missed but you are under a strong aura to unite fabulousness and out of curiosity.

The moment is serendipitous: it is love at first sight.

For me, the Ultimate Brag Bag comes with an interesting story. And I don't mean the kind of saliency and pedantic yarn about parenting your mother's wedding ring or having an eating disorder just to acquire it.

Rather, it is the kind of story that links you to your bag as if fate had a hand in it. The kind of story that makes your bag one of many but home yet, still keeps the true subtitly bag.Gumpy daughter.Granddaughter.

We all know that designer bags will always be the ultimate format of bags...not only literature of the matter, more than the greatest, but also because of the assured quality and workmanship you are holding them. You know that those oodles of pesos will be a sure flexible investment. These bags will probably outlast you, long enough for your clan to enjoy it them.

My Vuittons, Hermes and Hermesses are true head-turners, yes. But the ones that get drooled-over more are the bags that I secured in some small boutique or, better yet, in not, a vintage-inspired one that came free with a magazine I bought.

The secrets of how to wander are so appropriate for those unimpressive yet absolutely amazing brag bags. Unique, funky, absolutely fabulous or just plain bags with personality, they all deserve to be crowned as "bag" the humorously...."

E-mail the author at jfjustine@hotpad-asia.com

Jenni Epperson

SAPATO Manila, P 1,950

SISLEY, P3,000

BAGS in The City P 950

CHOCOLATE, P1,295

SUBSTANCE, P 3,664

SASSAFOR P1,295

SPLP P1,75

SISLEY, P 1,800

COLE Haaga, P 800

DETAILS, P 1,695

HIPSTOR P 1,800

MEMI'S Closet, P 2,100

D

D'Orsay

This is a classy style where the vamp (the upper part of the shoe from the collar to the toes, called the instep in cut of shoe) is low in the toe box, and since I've been told that sides are also sexy now the heel. Sexy and so rounded!

E

Emilio Pucci

Bold swirls of color are possibly the first thing that comes to mind when you hear of the name Pucci (Lauren Vinos), the Italian fashion house founded after WWII. The famous Pucci curve appears from clothing to home decors and has been copied all over. With its progressive gene, the legacy of the Prince of Pucci lives on with British designer Matthew Williamson as creative director. Oh, and did you know it was pucci-ble. Pucci who made popular the Capri pants?

F

Florence

It's only piece of gathered material essential to a dress or added as ornamentation.

G

Grosgrain

Pronounced groh-grayn, it's a piece of silk or rayon fabric, or ribbon with course ribbed canvas horizontal ribbing. It's used in clothing, footwear and accessories.

H

Hobo

An unstructured bag style that's expansive top and with a draw string strap. It has the shape of a straw fly crescent. Best for casual days.

I

Imitation of Christ

A combined footwear, maybe even so in Manhattan. The label was founded in New York in 2000 by self-proclaimed "social engineers" Tara Subkoff and Matthew Hershkow with eccentric-chic RUN shop clothes. Loaded on top by fashion watchers, the pair staged their first show for their second season. The following year, they ran from socialite-worthy front row and formed editors and buyers to walk the runway. Will it be on the line was unveiled for Spring '06.

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J

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O

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P

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Q

Alexander McQueen

R

Ruching

S

Savile Row

T

Terry cloth

U

UGG boots

V

Voile

W

Wedge heel

From straight-laced to stylish

Filipino men are starting to realize that being fashionable and being gay are two different things

Text by Rita T. Vergara
Photos by Jim Golan Fernandez

THANKS TO THEIR STYLISH gay friends, Filipino men are starting to loosen up when it comes to grooming and fashion. After years of rushing do with the basics, a growing number of straight guys have finally embraced the finer points of looking and feeling good.

The sartorial awareness is evident in the growing popularity of makeover shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and home-grown fashion magazine for men such as Pinoyed and Metro Files.

Together with Forever, the latest recently staged a fashion show in Makati featuring the department store's latest RTW clothes, shoes and accessories.

Unlike in most fashion shows in the past, the male models were no more stiffs to their female counterparts. The time they were given equal (if not more) importance as the women.

In keeping with the current urge to go tight, the show featured a great deal of sleek denim jeans, tapered suits and sexy jackets. The close-to-the-body silhouette would have been fatal to most males as recently as three years ago, when most Filipino men had yet to discover the virtues of going regularly to the gym. Well, not anymore.

Carlo Tadiar, editor in chief of Metro Files, hopes to address the concerns of this growing market by coming up with categorized features and photo shoots. The magazine, although heavy on fashion, doesn't restrict basic informat ion designed to put you in steps, he insists. Neither does it advocate cutting-edge stuff that might scare away mainstream readers.

"It's targeted to men for whom style is very important," he says. "If we're to go by the Unimodus growth of the global luxury market, the number of such men is indeed growing rapidly."

Believe it or not, straight men really care about how their look and are unafraid to indulge in some vanities. Looking good isn't an end in itself, but rather a means to get ahead, either socially or in the romance department.

"I think it's a recent development," says Tadiar. "Before, most men would wear anything, while their wives and girlfriends looked fabulous."

Taking their cue

The "competition" has become so fierce that not a few men now regularly trade cue and get facials in their attempts to get noticed. They must discover that their new physiques, honed by frequent visits to the gym, can now allow them to wear the trendsetting and the most tapered outfits.

There men, whether they care to admit it or not, will most likely take their cue from the gay men next door. Tadiar isn't referring to the stereotypical gay wearing makeup and women's clothes (no offense meant), but the slim, well-groomed "MSM" type dressed in snappy mid-and the latest designer labels.

"It's a surefire formula to get the ladies' attention," says Tadiar. "It didn't take long for straight guys to see that it works."

Before gays made an impression on real men, the latter only had fun-type movie stars to look up to as role models. Instead of trying to look in vain like Josh Lucas or Brad Pitt, men can now realize their dream of becoming a bona fide metrosexual by emulating how a stylish gay person dresses up.

"But there's no one-size-fits-all in an art to appeal to a particular market segment," Tadiar elaborates. "As a fashion magazine, Metro Files wants to appeal to every man who loves to look fashionable regardless of his orientation."

Based on reader feedback, he says, a good number of Filipinos are just beginning to accept the fact that being fashionable and being gay are two different things.

Not a few straight guys, for instance, thought that Metro Files was a gay magazine until they got hold of an issue. They were pleasantly surprised that it's not.

"I don't want to encourage any kind of homophobia," says Tadiar, "but the magazine isn't about (gay) advocacy either. But hopes it an fashion that will get you adored and get you accepted without making you look ridiculous."

In other words, the smell that queers fifties (the) paper are clothes so fashionable even straight men likely to wear. So if there's one thing Tadiar dreads the less at, it's frowning upon (except perhaps the Swedish KKK) his men.

"Even if I were editing a gay magazine, I'd never promote skirts for men," he says.

Indeed, whether you're gay or straight, there are certain articles of clothing you simply can't get away with.

E-mail the author at vergara@inquirer.com.ph

MATTAN'S 2006 Beauty contestant Collection

Fashionology

X

XOXO

Y

Yuka

Z

Zac Posen

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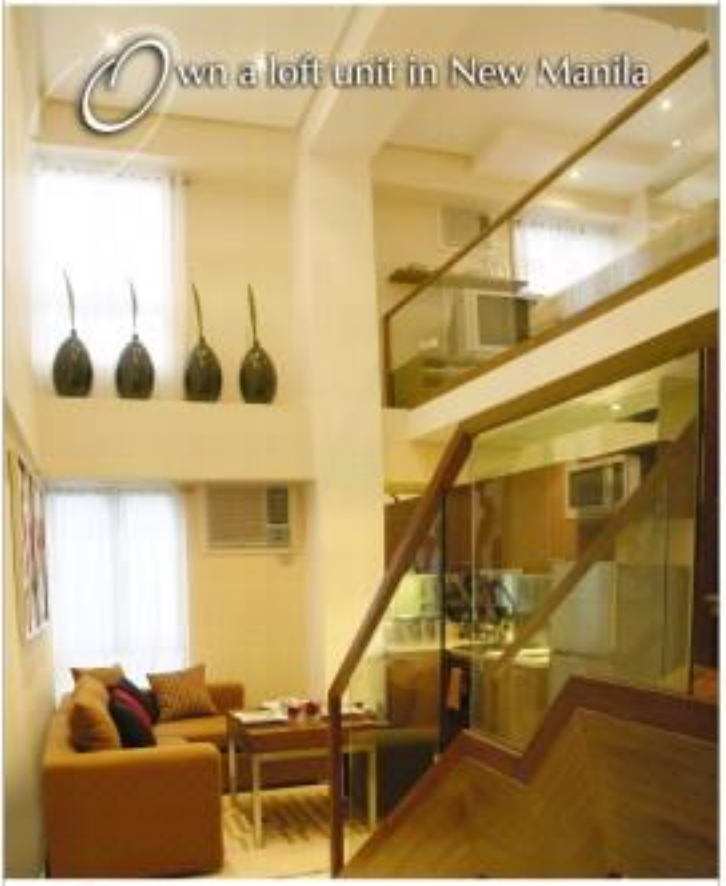

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Avida Land is offering more options to condominium residents in its New Manila development. These include larger studio units as well as the introduction of one-bedroom and loft units in its Tower 2.

The New Manila project is one of Avida Land's three in-city condominium developments. It is located along Boni Serrano Avenue and is a short drive to the Cubao Commercial District and Araneta and Ortigas shopping centers, top schools and universities in Diliman, gimmick and eligible establishments along the Tomas Morato food strip, and is accessible via public transportation including the MRT and LRT2 lines.

Priced within the reach of the middle-income market including young couples, single professionals, entrepreneurs, and OFWs, Avida Towers New Manila offers studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and loft units. The units range in price from P1 million to P3.2 million.

Living room of one-bedroom unit

"Our New Manila Towers will be offering a lot of innovations, including the availability of bigger units," says Donia Bonoyan, president of Avida Land.

Condo dwellers who want to meditate in the morning or catch a view of the city may do so in the privacy of their individual balconies, which are found in units from the ground up to the fifth floor.

The multi-tower Avida Towers New Manila covers 1.2 hectares of prime land that will have a Zen-inspired theme for its parks, gardens and a jogging path where residents can exercise, rest, unwind and be spiritually uplifted.

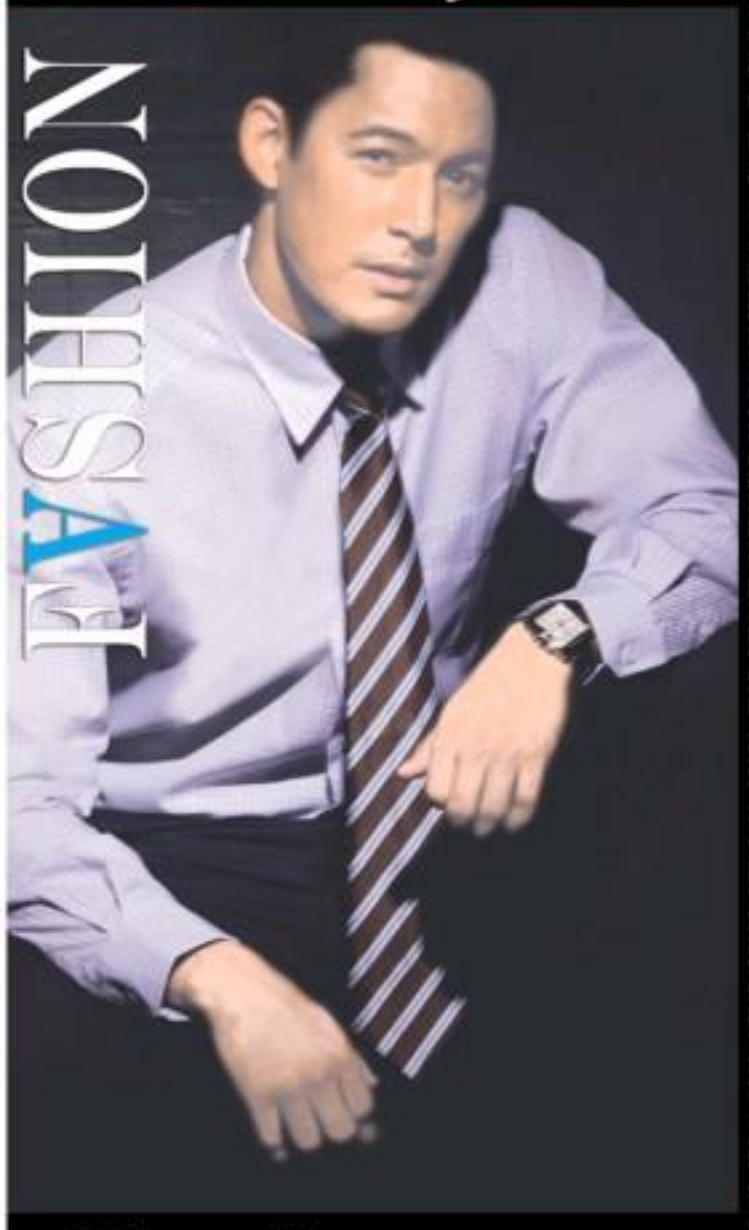
An infinity swimming pool for adults and kids and children's playground will be located at the clubhouse area. All five towers will be interconnected at the podium level.

Prospective condo unit owners will have a chance to view the new model units designed by Isabel Aquinbes, starting 22 July 2006. For more information about Avida Land, events in advance or www.avidaland.com or call 864-5744.

Living room of one-bedroom loft unit

LIFESTYLE

FASHION



Anyone with style, attitude and multi-faceted personality can be an 'urbanista'

Sizzling urbanism

FASHION LINGO USUALLY results from the trends and lifestyles of a generation.

In the '80s, terms like "Valley girls" (preppy-ish girls from London like Princess Di and her circle of friends), "Valley girls" (preppy-ish girls from San Fernando Valley, California) and "Yuppies" (stylish young urban professionals) were hatched to refer to a coterie of individuals with specific fashion choices and lifestyles. More recently, catchwords like "fashionista" and "metrosexual" have cropped up to portray a larger group of people who have a passion/love for fashion.

The latest add-on to fashion's ever-growing vocabulary is the term "urbanista."

"Urban" is defined loosely as characteristic of the city or city life, while "ista" refers to a doctrine, theory or set of principles. So, literally, urbanists can be defined as lifestyle that's centered on the city.

Although this is purely urban slang, when it refers to, Miller Time, the president for the marketing communications group of SM Inc., says the word appears to mean more than its literal meaning.

"It's bordering on more global. It's not just about dressing up a certain way or being a party girl, it's about having a purpose in life and having the courage to be whatever you want to be," she says.

So who qualifies as an "urbanista," which is another new term that refers to individuals who knowingly or unknowingly subscribe to urbanism? Dimen says that it can be anyone with style, attitude and a multi-faceted personality.

"Being cool now means being yourself, so the urbanista is always comfortable with himself or herself."

High-profile urbanistas around the world would include the likes of the late Jackie O., Donald Trump of City and Madonna. Locally, Charlene Molduris, Cat Dolino and Tim Yap would come to mind.

But the heroes from the neighborhood valid, the bookkeeper of a sales customer in the bookstore or even the admin in the church choir can be as much of an urbanista as the above-mentioned personalities.

SM's image model Mary Selvan is the perfect example of a true urbanista. He's a citizen of the world, having traveled to countless locales around the globe. Plus, he always exudes confidence, charm and style.

Together with SM, Mary is redefining cool by embracing urbanism. To further define this latest coin toward, here are his thoughts on what it takes to be hip, cool, and of course, a true-blue urbanista:

What defines urbanism?

Urbanism is creating your own sense of style out of good quality and tasteful pieces. It's a mix of what is stylish and comfortable.

Who would you consider your urban icon?

David Beckham

What would you consider your urban essentials?

Denny T-shirt and well-cut jeans.

What would you consider a stylish, Gwen urban item?

A stylish chunky watch.

Describe the ideal outfit for an urbanista's night out.

A great pair of jeans and a well-cut polo.

Why does the urbanista spirit fit into your wardrobe?

I look at urbanism as something that's all about what makes you urbanista having a comfort zone for style. That makes it easy for me to look great and feel comfortable.

What makes SM the place for urbanistas?

SM is always busy looking for the latest styles and trends—pieces that are stylish and wearable. You'll always look forward to their next big fashion thing the way I do.

Email the author at sfabros@inquirer.com.ph

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadiwasa

Are you an URBANISTA?

Racio Mari Morata, 21

Sporty at fantastic, certified waiter baby

Built assistant instructor, owner of Cher's kitsch

Diving is her way of life: the beach, her favorite place in the world. Which is probably why Racio Morata dresses as if she were still on the beach—well, not exactly in bikinis, though she probably would if she could.

Her style is comfy and carefree—tank top, denim mini and soft slippers—just perfect to show off her tanned and toned body. Still giddy from a weekend dive in Anilao with her family, Racio became all the more excited when the new bikinis being sold at Xtasko Aquatics' studio.

Ask her about diving and she wouldn't stop talking. Her hubby's a fellow diver and instructor, and they've wanted their daughter to do the family sport. The couple runs a dive shop and school in QC, and Racio constantly arranges dives for her students and friends. Rocio used to cute in college—as long as it's related to water, she'll be fine.

Show her a cute bikini, and she'll accessorize it to make it her own. Borrow with sandwiches, oh please no.

Fave getup: I lush for comfort in the clothes I wear. I'm usually in tank tops or racerback shirts (which I have somewhere), denim skirts, and I have lots of slippers. I also like tunics and sarongs—those with loose silhouettes—for the beach.

Choicest accessories: Big belts, wooden bracelets, chunky chandeliers. I also wear glass bead bracelets that I design but which my friend makes for me. I don't wear accessories with sandwiches.

Food trips: Classic bears, wonton—anything Gau's Gourmet. I also like Japanese—though I don't eat the raw stuff because one of my diver friends told me, "If you don't eat them, they're our friends."

Guilty pleasure: Hikikis! I think I already have 20 of them. I even want to buy another one, I didn't know they were selling some here!

Cool job: I've been assistant diving instructor since September 2005. I can work, but I can't certify you. It's my husband who's a PADI course director who does that.

Shopping: Alll! is at this time. Is it 90% more every 90-day night? Well, the beach also...it's my No. 1 favorite place.

Ultimate urbanites: I'll say my good friend Thessa Hernando. She's a fashion designer and she doesn't care what people say or think about her. No-nonsense kind of girl...she has a very functional wardrobe. She's passionate about rubber shoes like rare Ferrys that you can't find anywhere!

Why she is an urbanistas: I'm sporty. It's the life I choose to live. This is how I am and what I love to do. Being in the ocean all the time doesn't have to make you unfashionable.

Shopping crowd: I buy stuff I like, and not what's only in fashion. I love shopping in ukay-ukay to look for real great vintage pieces. I love hearing people ask "where did you get that," and I say "ukay-ukay lang" and their jaw drops.

Shopping tips: Not everything expensive or branded is great. Look for pieces that are versatile and classic. Dining, dashes for me is like collecting rare pieces, not just having different dashes to wear every day. It's when I can have for years and still look good in it. So don't get clothes that are too trendy. Lastly, I believe you can never have too many bikinis and good underwear.

By Allison W. Lopez

WE THOUGHT IT WASN'T ENOU
to redefine it. We call them—dru
pursuing their passions, and livin
multifaceted, too. They listen to t
they're comfortable with who the
stuck in that rut. Rather, they're t
comfort zones. What they do is e
about. They're real people with s
What about you? What kind of "u

Margaux Romero, 21

Style file architecture, member of Shopaholics Anonymous

Stylist, communications technology student at Ateneo de Manila University

She's the street we all wish we had.

Stylist Margaux Romero is her family's designated shopper—and neither they nor she could complain because she picks out just the right style.

To her, patience in shopping is a virtue such that she sometimes chooses to skip meals just to—the fun finds her mark. She's a clothes stylist, always on the prowl for the latest trends and brands. She may have begun as a commercial and runway model, but now she'd rather dress up the models themselves.

But there's no learning doesn't end there. Margaux knows she can learn more about fashion, and perhaps even "professionalize" styling. She's now taking up short fashion design courses in Milan and New York, and is very excited to see what comes out of it.

Whether it's a market or an upscale mall, she has an opulent in scouring and scoring fab finds. It's the ultimate delight for this self-confessed shopaholic—aside from eating pizza, that is.

Fave getup: Style I'm into—Dreamy. They're so easy to wear. Babydoll dresses with flip flops...

Choicest accessories: I layer all kinds of necklaces. I also like beachy accessories.

Food trips: Pizza! Any kind! That's why I'm so excited to go to Italy. I wouldn't mind having pizza every day. I feel she doesn't get fat.

Guilty pleasure/s: Shopping for clothes! Sometimes even when I'm already hungry I still choose to shop. If I see a new store I have to check out. Then I'll pour my attention.

Hangout: I watch a lot of movies. I go to Pinoy, too—I love dancing with my girlfriends to hiphop and R&B music.

Ultimate urbanites: I don't think I have a specific "ultimate urbanites." but I admire people who just enjoy expressing themselves through fashion. Fashion should be something you have fun with, something that expresses who you are... not something used to show off or to fit in.

I like the way Sienna Miller dresses, plus Nicole Richie and Mischa Barton.

Why she is an urbanistas: I'm very open to trying out new things. The terms can be cheap but you can still look stylish. You have to have fun with the stuff that you already have.

Shopping crowd: "Some days when you shop." If you find something that you think will be fun to wear, don't be afraid to try it. It doesn't matter whether it's from Penda or from a vintage... You'll be surprised by how many interesting things you'll discover when you try shopping in new places.

Shopping tips: Just try on grab every opportunity that comes to you. Take a chance, don't be afraid to try new things. If it works for you, then great! Enjoy it! But if it doesn't work out, just watch out for the next opportunity. Whatever happens, you'll learn something from trying. Never let fear stop you.

Carlos Concepcion, 22

Army urbanista, future actor and designer

Entrepreneurial management graduate at University of Asia and the Pacific, design course under the Galaxy of Vidal Tarela

"Skinny" means for Carlos' favorite items these days. Skin-fit shirts, skinny ties, skinny belts, and skinny jeans are his fashion staple. It's quite tricky to carry, but on a tall and toned bod, you can get away with anything.

So may still be in school, but Carlos is also studying under Filipino designer Ino Cabaca, and soaking up classes in acting and hosting. He cringes when he sees fashionable person on losing fashion and vows he would not make the same mistake when the time comes.

He may sound like a snob as he converses in English, but he's definitely no fashion snob. He doesn't look down on no-name brands, in fact, he relishes good finds in stores like SM. For an army urbanista who's very particular about style, quality and impact, we can't help but trust his fashion instincts.

Fave getup: Skinny jeans from Penshoppe, skinny ties, and black or white Dockz. I think my look is kinda punk but not the angsty kind.

Choicest accessories: Skinny ties, skinny belt—I like skinny! Bracelets and metrosexual pins, too.

Food trips: McDonald's! Jollibee Hamadito, Double Cheeseburger...

Guilty pleasure/s: My walk shoes. I like go to the

Cool job: I'm a jack-of-all-trades actor

Hangout: dinking, and

Ultimate urbanites: My admire his own jean brand. Jesse decided to do like his work

I also admire Williams, who with a cheeky He also pro called no Q

Why he is an urbanistas: I'm practical sha have to look I'm still a coll been SM—m They actually

Shopping crowd: When shoppi I always wear comfy and up hairdo. I don't like my spot wan around for a colors things. first item you

Shopping tips: Be patient in hunting. It's th avail. I buy a equivalent, t change your don't to go w white T-shirt

GH TO DEFINE URBANISM, SO WE CHOSE FIVE PEOPLE
n roll, please—the Urbanistas. They love doing their thing,
g their lives. They excel in their own fields, but they're
heir own rhythm and dance to their own groove, because
y are. Comfortable doesn't mean, however, that they'll be
he ones who are so comfortable with getting out of their
plore, excel, experience—exactly what life should be all
yle *and* purpose, and they're our Fab Five Urbanistas.
rbanista" are you?

Jayvee Fernandez, 25

The fun urbanista, possibly too fun

Managing editor of Mobile Philippines and Game magazines

Without the glasses or the disheveled mop of hair, Jayvee is so unlike the nerd stereotype. In fact, he's the first to admit he owns no specs. Not that Invisible Britush characters will do it for him.

But if you check the multi-pocketed cargo, you'll realize he is a **geek! As editor of IDP's Mobile Philippines and Game magazines, Jayvee brings along pounds and pounds of the latest thingamajigs to review.**

He himself is mobile, his work **takes him anywhere...well, as long as there's Internet access. As such, this writer-lowers utilitarian with a pinch of personal style. Lately, he's gone nuts for the fashion bug by experimenting with colors.**

But nothing can beat his real accessories—laptops, handhelds, game consoles.... What more can a guy ask for?

Party pickup: Lately I've been into party-thrift. I had this phase where I only wore black, but that's over now. I like shirts that fit me well, so I choose slim-fit. Also cargo pants, **because of the many pockets where I can stash my gadgets.**

Chosen accessories: Watch and anti-poverty white band from Tech 21.

Food trip: I love hotel breakfast **buffets. Breakfast is my favorite** meal of the day. I also go for **Japanese and Italian.**

Guilty pleasures: Ay Ayala (**non gadgets, it rocks!**) I'm watching soap operas with my mom, because that's what I catch on TV when I get home.

Cool job: Aside from getting to travel now the latest, mind-warping gadgets, Jayvee is also a good example of blogger—not the journal type of blogger. "I provide content for websites on mobile technology. I also do technical writing on business. It pays really well."

Hangout: Powerbooks, the mall.... I love watching movies. And I'm a girl when I shop. I really look for the right fit, and it takes me long.

Ultimate urbanista: Britney a geek, see all thought that Steve Jobs was the epitome of cool attire, so that's why I always worn a black top and jeans.

Fast forward to now... I remember reading an article about how you can adapt Johnny Depp's eccentric clothing style to match yours. I've always been relatively with the way I dress, but I would **want to accent myself with something from a different era, fowler hats, a coat...with my laptop. Wow,** that would be cool.

Why he is an urbanista: I'm not tied to the office—my job is expected **to be mobile. I am on my job almost anywhere, as long as there's WiFi.** So with my clothes, I always look for comfort.

Shopping creed: "Keep away from black." I had an epiphany at the start of the year. A lot of people say I run every light-pastel colors in pink and lime green, and not a lot of guys can, apparently. So I take advantage of this to match my "always happy" personality and stay away from dismal black.

Shopping tips: The two most important articles for the techie urbanista are the pants and your gadget bag. For pants, you may opt to grab a pair of cargos or any loose pants so that your gadgets don't bulge out of your pants (and give other people the wrong impression).

For bags, I suggest getting something sturdy and water-resistant. Don't opt for backpacks if you have a huge laptop weighing more than 3 lb, because it will stress your back. Messenger bags are the safest way to go. Rule of thumb—the bag must be able to fit a laptop, cables, and a camera—that's how you know it is big (or small) enough.

Maina Yunon Solasco, 24

Mommy urbanista, forever beauty queen

Full-time model, full-time mom to three boys, children management student

Isn't she the prettiest thing?

In 1997, **shoulder-length and shoulder-length model** Maina Solasco would not be mistaken for a mom. **She may look familiar...after all, she was away with the** thrilling Filipino World 2000 title, and with **basketball star Kirk Belasco in her arms...but as a** mom? In three boys?!

To this **she'll probably reply,** 'Hello!?' Her beauty secret may be attributed to the fact that she migrated (from where she was to, and came back only in 2005 for the local pageant.

Beauty is in her blood—her aunt, Denisse Verduzco, is a former beauty queen herself. But the investment-something mom isn't about to rely on her looks alone for her future. She's now studying child-care management at home, and plans to put up a daycare center in the US when her family settles there permanently.

Her pageant mantra? "Time + productivity = success. You have to work hard to achieve something," **for Maina, everything's so much easier if you work** for it.

Party getup: Denim, tank top, slippers. My look is very casual.

Chosen accessories: Big hoop earrings and my wedding ring. I also have a necklace with pictures of my sons.

Guilty pleasures: I'm very strict when it comes to my diet, but sometimes I join my kids in eating junk food! I love grocery shopping, too. It takes me 1½ hours to do it every week.

Cool job: I'm a mom and a model. Lately I've been busy with a lot of projects, probably because I'm now at my thirtieth (after motherhood). I was very excited about Beauty (the underwear show), because it was my first time to do that.

Hangout: Everywhere. We watch movies at Rockwell (a mom's throw-away from their home).

Ultimate urbanista: It would have to be my sister, Denisse Verduzco, because she always knows where and how to shop for classy and good quality items. She can find clothing in small markets that you are able to see in branded and expensive stores, **and the quickest she has in shopping is something I** admire because she doesn't settle for the first thing she sees. And that's exactly how I am when I go shopping.

Why she is an urbanista: I'm not really a "brand" person. Every time I shop, I feel guilty when I splurge. I just save my money and spend it on my kids.

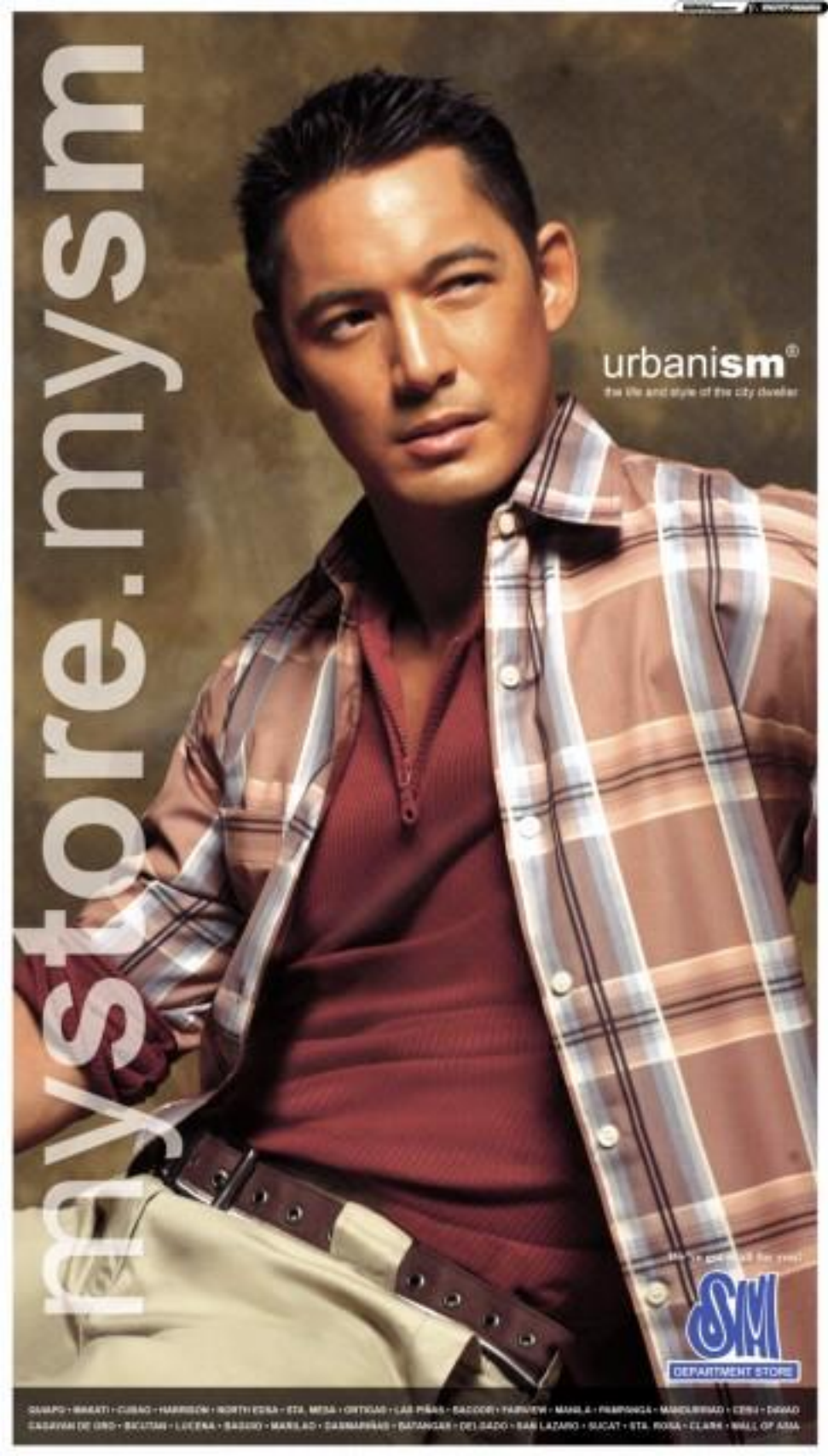
I'm a very practical shopper. I go for quality and how it looks—it doesn't have to be branded. I arm-chair-shop at the expensive brands, and look for something similar in other stores, like SM.

Shopping creed: "Never settle for something you are first. Shop around and you are bound to find the right thing for the right price!"

Shopping tips: As a mother and a model, I am stuck between two worlds that are totally different—"mommy" being conservative, and "model" solid and fashionable. But being the person that I am, I've adjusted my sense of style and shopping to meet both worlds.

When shopping for your children, buy them clothes that are two sizes bigger so they last longer. I have them shrunk to their size then re-shirt again when they need the pants longer.

Shopping for myself, I tend to be the last person on my list because I allot my dollars for the material babies—for example, running a T-shirt to make it off-the-shoulder.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